

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## 4 U.S. teens arrested in August crash near Yokota

BY CHARLIE REED  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Japanese police on Saturday arrested four American teenagers suspected of stringing a rope across a street near the base in August and causing a Japanese motorcyclist to crash, seriously injuring her.

The teens, whose parents are servicemembers stationed at Yokota, were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder but have not been charged, authorities said.

Japanese police can question adult suspects for 48 hours and hold them an additional 21 days while prosecutors determine whether to file charges. Though the young Americans are considered juveniles under Japanese law, they could be charged as adults. It was unclear Saturday how long they could be held in custody.

SEE ARREST ON PAGE 2

**C**incinnati rallies past Pitt to stay unbeaten  
Page 29

**Remembering Pearl Harbor**  
Page 4

**WASHINGTON**  
In hindsight the warning signs all look so obvious.

An Army doctor in medical school who preferred offering militant political screeds about Islam in place of assigned papers on scientific topics.

A psychiatrist who sought to have some patients charged with war crimes for

## Missed signs puzzling as Hasan picture emerges

BY LEO SHANE III  
AND MEGAN MCCLOSKEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

their actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A devout Muslim who engaged in an extensive e-mail dialogue with a radical Yemeni-American religious cleric infamous for encouraging extremist attacks against Western targets.

None of that behavior exhibited by the accused Fort Hood shooter, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, in the weeks and months before the deadly Nov. 5 rampage went unnoticed. But much of it went unreported, and no single individual or agency appears to have possessed more than

slivers of the bigger picture.

Now, as the results of the first of several federal probes into missed signals in the Fort Hood case circulate inside the White House, outside experts are coming to their own conclusions. They believe excessive political correctness, a lack of understanding of Islam and holes in Army guidelines for spotting extremists in the ranks all contributed to the failure to identify ominous warning signs in Hasan's case.

SEE HASAN ON PAGE 3



The bombs are  
**NUMEROUS**  
The roads are  
**DANGEROUS**

**Their mission is  
CLEAR**

HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Eric Madsen, 26, of Newportville, Pa., negotiates a sewage-filled creek after checking a culvert for bombs in Kandahar.

BY HEATH DRUZIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

**A**s armored vehicles improve, killing soldiers with roadside bombs becomes increasingly difficult. So insurgents do what they can to separate the two.

Roadside bombs are still effective in stopping a convoy. If the insurgents can disable a vehicle, they can force U.S. troops out of the protective vehicles to investigate,

exposing them to secondary bombs — increasingly a weapon of choice in the badlands of southern Afghanistan.

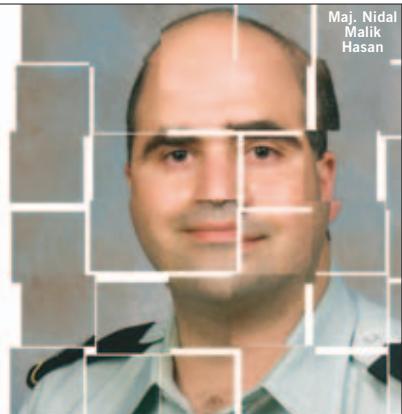
Soldiers with the 4th Engineer Battalion's 2nd Platoon, 569th Engineer Company are well aware of the risks of dismounting vehicles along Highway 1, the main road connecting Kandahar and Kabul.

Land mines are strewn across the area, and picking them out of the darkness and uneven soil off the road is difficult. Insurgents have also started using booby traps to target foot patrols.

But on a paved road — where culverts are the favored place to plant bombs, many of which include hundreds of pounds of explosives — an on-the-ground peek is sometimes the only way to check when cameras attached to hydraulic arms can't get a clear view.

"This is kind of a last resort," Sgt. 1st Class John Teets said. "If you can't see it, sometimes you've got to get there and take a look."

SEE ROAD ON PAGE 6



Maj. Nidal  
Malik  
Hasan



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**First responders use a table as a stretcher to transport a wounded soldier to an ambulance at Fort Hood, Texas, after a gunman opened fire Nov. 5. Questions are being raised over possible warning signs about Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the Army psychiatrist accused of the shooting.**

## Hasan: Did diversity breed reluctance?

### HASAN, FROM PAGE 1

"With 20/20 hindsight it's easy to say there should have been indicators," said Zachary Lockman, professor of Middle Eastern studies and history at New York University. "But some people may have been reluctant because others would see it as going after him for being Muslim. Others might have identified all of Islam with extremism, so they didn't see anything unusual."

The reluctance to voice concerns about Hasan's behavior "suggests we need a better understanding of the difference between mainstream Muslims and the more radical, extreme elements," Lockman said.

Those who worked and studied alongside Hasan described him as combative but not violent. They said his religious tirades, often centering on the conflict Hasan perceived between Muslims in the U.S. military and their combat roles in Iraq and Afghanistan, were uncomfortable but not obviously treasonous.

Thus, in a military service that espouses diversity — last April Army officials issued a memo reiterating the importance of "culturally astute" units with an "inclusive environment" — there might have been a reluctance to raise concerns that Hasan's behavior constituted anything more than cultural differences.

"Political correctness does play a role here," said Amotz Brandes, a managing partner at Chameleon Associates, a security consulting firm that works with Defense Department agencies.

People are often fearful of reporting concerns that could be viewed as culturally ignorant or insensitive, Brandes said.

"You have to be educated to be able to tell if something is cynicism, sarcasm or really an indication of hostile intent," he said.

If soldiers knew little about Islam — if they wondered whether the mainstream Muslim community was opposed to the war in Iraq, for example — Hasan's comments might have seemed reasonable, Lockman said.

The Army does have guidelines for identifying "extremist" elements within its ranks. But retired Gen. John Keane,

a former Army vice chief of staff, told Congress last month that the guidelines gloss over religious extremists, focusing instead on gangs and white supremacist groups.

"Radical Islam, in my opinion, is a transformational issue and the most significant threat facing our country today," he told a Senate panel. "We must espouse diversity, but at the same time we must know what the threat looks like, too."

Brandes said that even though diversity is properly embraced, the Army needs to recognize it might "create a problem of allegiance."

Soldiers who are conflicted about their role in the U.S. military and another aspect of their identity — in this case, religion — might feel as if they are in a position where they have to choose sides, he said.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Vt., as chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee has pledged to examine whether the Army extremism guidelines — last revised in 2000 — need to be updated.

The current Army directive instructs all soldiers to be on the lookout for signs that colleagues might be affiliated with gangs, wearing questionable tattoos or discussing violent actions.

"In many instances, soldiers who oppose or disagree will not confront the extreme views of another," the document reads. "They either do not feel directly affected by these views or fear damaging the unit's working environment. The unit, however, will usually divide into opposing factions and the team concept is gone. Time and effort are now required to deal with the situation."

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said last month that existing Defense Department directives mirroring those Army guidelines spell out the role of service commanders in identifying extremist or potentially violent action, and that new regulations are not needed.

Still, he conceded that balancing free speech and vigilance among service-members is a difficult task, and one of the Pentagon's Fort Hood review panels will be discussing over the next month.

Brandes said the Fort Hood shooting showed that the Army doesn't do enough

predictive profiling of its own ranks.

"Those who need clearance or are in the Special Forces are constantly re-evaluated because of the sensitive nature of what they do, but that scrutiny doesn't really apply to the majority of soldiers and staff in military," he said.

Meanwhile, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey Jr. last month issued a service-wide message ordering a review of all base security measures and reminding commanders of their duty to be on the lookout for suspicious or problematic behavior.

The message also included a list of "potential terrorist activity" that must be reported to authorities immediately, including soldiers' known ties to terrorist groups, statements advocating violence against the country, visits to questionable Web sites with terrorism themes and purchase of bomb-making materials.

The only item on the list that might have applied to Hasan before the Fort Hood shooting was one warning about soldiers using "repeated expressions of hatred and intolerance of American society."

Brandes said that to catch an internal threat, soldiers need to be told to engage questionable behavior with follow-up questions — something he said Hasan's behavior should have prompted.

"The next question is why," Brandes said. "Why, why, why — until he gives you his real intent."

Some religious groups maintained that servicemembers should be able to identify a religious radical without more specific guidelines.

"Extremism is extremism," said Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations. "If you're advocating violence or hinting at violence, that should be a sign."

"What [the Army] is aiming for is objective criteria to identify problems, which is good. It can't just be based on one religion. It has to be a reasonable person test, and then you have to take some action if there's a reason for concern."

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# Caregiver shortage scrutinized

BY MEGAN MCCLOSKEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Army is severely short of enough mental health professionals to properly attend to soldiers after eight years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the Pentagon and Congress are asking whether that shortage may have played a role in the ability of the accused Fort Hood shooter, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, to elude detection despite a spotty work record and suspicious behavior.

Hasan's competence and radicalism stirred concern among his fellow students and superiors and he was counseled for proselytizing to his patients, but he nevertheless progressed in his schooling and his military career throughout his six years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

He was promoted to major in May and transferred to Fort Hood in July.

As part of the Pentagon's review of the Fort Hood incident, Defense Secretary Robert Gates has ordered an assessment of whether Hasan was properly retained and promoted in the Army Medical Corps, and whether anything interfered with Army procedures for discharging a soldier found "not to be fully qualified or unsuitable for continued military service."

Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees, said she believes "there was a reluctance" to question Hasan's service "because of the shortage of psychiatrists in the Army."

The committee will investigate whether that shortage meant "numerous warning signs were ignored," she said.

It's a charge Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, surgeon general of the Army, flatly denies. He said the Army would never promote sub-par officers simply to keep up with demand for mental health doctors.

"Quality is always the first priority," he said at a media roundtable last month.

Schoomaker added there is no connection between those who are responsible for providing enough caregivers in the field and those who evaluate the individual officers.

The Army has hired hundreds of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses and social workers since 2007, but Gen. Peter Chiarelli, vice chief of staff of the Army, said the service is still short about 750 to 800 experts.

In Afghanistan, there is one mental health provider for every 1,123 soldiers. Army officials have said they want to lower that ratio to one provider for every 700 soldiers.

In the last year, the Army has instituted multiple efforts to recruit and retain people in this field, including offering large bonuses, increasing loan repayment allocations and hiring foreign doctors.

"Does [the shortage] affect decisions? Absolutely," said Barbara Van Dahlen, who, as head of Give an Hour, a nonprofit organization that offers free counseling to veterans, deals often with the Defense Department.

"There is tremendous pressure on those in the system to do more than can possibly do," she said. "You hear conversations of people saying they can't keep up with this pace."

Since the Fort Hood shooting, Van Dahlen said, many in the mental health community have wondered whether Hasan was transferred to Fort Hood in July in an effort to pass the buck, offering a change of venue so his superiors would not have to address his problems directly.

Civilian psychiatrists and psychologists said Hasan's reported proselytizing would have raised red flags in the private sector.

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## Little combat on second day of offensive in Afghanistan

By DEB RIECHMANN  
The Associated Press

KABUL — U.S. Marines and Afghan troops have killed at least seven Taliban fighters during the first U.S.-led offensive since President Barack Obama announced a new war plan last week, Afghan officials said Saturday.

American and Afghan troops have met little resistance since Operation Cobra's Anger was launched Friday to disrupt Taliban supply and communication lines in the strategic Now Zad Valley in southern Afghanistan, Marine officials said.

About 1,000 Marines and 150 Afghan troops are taking part in the offensive, including hundreds of Marines dropped behind Taliban lines by helicopters and MV-22 Osprey aircraft. A second, larger Marine force pushed northward from the main base.

"We're not taking for granted the low level of contact," Marine spokesman Maj. William Peltier said Saturday. "Just because it's quiet now doesn't mean it will be in 24 hours."

"Part of the operation is to have



KEVIN FRAYER/AP

**A Marine of the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade helps a fellow Marine cross a creek during a Friday patrol near Khan Nashin, Afghanistan.**

a disruptive effect on the Taliban resupply activities," he said. "The Marines and Afghan forces are continuing the clearing operation, continuing to move through the valley."

No coalition casualties have been reported.

Daood Ahmadi, spokesman for the governor of Helmand, said 11 Taliban fighters have been killed and five captured. The Afghan Defense Ministry said seven militants were killed and two captured.

Elsewhere, three Taliban militants were killed Friday during a gunbattle with Afghan National

Police at a checkpoint in Nimroz province, provincial Gov. Ghulam Dastagir Azad said Saturday. Five other militants and five policemen were wounded.

NATO reported that a joint Afghan-international security force detained a handful of militants Saturday in Logar province, including an individual linked to senior leadership in the province who allegedly was helping militants move and train in the area.

The joint security force targeted a compound near the village of Sejawand in the Baraki Barak district of Logar.

## Drone strikes may widen in Pakistan

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is considering widening missile strikes on al-Qaida and the Taliban inside Pakistan and is planning to bolster the training of Pakistan's forces in a key border battleground where militants fuel the escalating Afghan insurgency, according to U.S. officials.

The officials said the stepped-up moves against the militant networks could extend the airstrikes farther south, beyond the current target areas in Waziristan and into the western province of Baluchistan. U.S. special operations forces are also developing plans to expand their training of Pakistan's paramilitary Frontier Corps into that province.

Rep. Adam Smith, chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on terrorism, acknowledged that there have been "discussions, in Congress and a lot of different places, to expand the area" where the drone attacks are being conducted.

He would not provide details, but a U.S. government official said Friday that discussions are under way to expand those attacks into Baluchistan. That official and others spoke on condition of anonymity because the drone program is classified, and decisions on the training program are not final.

The CIA had already accelerated the pace of its drone attacks in Pakistan's federally administered tribal areas this year, but U.S. officials are also concerned about Baluchistan because of its central role in stoking the Afghan insurgency.

U.S. officials estimate there are about 500 al-Qaida members in Pakistan and Afghanistan, often moving back and forth across the border. They say there are roughly 50,000 Taliban insurgents dispersed among the Afghan and Pakistani tribes.

The Pentagon's plans to widen training for Pakistani government forces include the possible creation of a second training center in the rugged border region.

## Lawmakers rally to Navy SEALs' aid in court-martial

By KEVIN FREKING  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers are seeking a reprieve for three Navy SEALs facing court-martial because one allegedly punched a suspect after arresting him for an ambush killing of U.S. contractors in Iraq.

Rather than accept a reprimand, the sailors chose to fight the charges in a military court.

Their appeal greatly raises the stakes because a guilty finding could bring stiff punishment.

A letter that Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter circulated in the House said prosecuting the three SEALs "seems to us to be an overreaction by the command."

One of the SEALs is accused of punching Ahmed Hashim Abed in the face after his September arrest; the others are accused of falsifying statements.

Abed had evaded capture since the ambush that killed four Blackwater USA contractors in March 2004.

The burned bodies of two of the victims in the attack were hung on a bridge over the Euphrates River.

Hunter, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, said the men could face loss of rank, up to one year of confinement, a bad-conduct discharge and forfeiture of a portion of their pay each month for up to a year.

About 20 lawmakers signed the letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, including House Republican Minority Leader John Boehner.

"The Navy SEALs could have been slapped on the wrist for this — unfairly then, too," Hunter said. "But they said, 'We want to let the facts be known.'" Pros-

ecuting them is "baloney."

The SEALs involved are Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas.

According to Special Operations Command Central, McCabe is charged with assault, dereliction of duty and making a false statement; Keefe is charged with dereliction of duty and making a false official statement; and Huertas is charged with dereliction of duty, making a false official statement and impeding an official investigation.

The command said in a news release Friday night the alleged assault happened after "the prisoner had been apprehended and while he was in their custody at the base."

The command stressed that the charges were merely accusations and the sailors were presumed

innocent unless proven guilty at court-martial.

The plight of the three men seems to be gaining attention on Capitol Hill.

On Wednesday, Republican Sen. John Ensign sent a similar letter to Gates, asking the secretary to give the case his personal attention.

He said it appeared to him that

highly skilled personnel have been removed from the war effort "due to a fat lip and some slanderous allegations by one of the most-wanted individuals in Iraq."

The letter by House members said prosecution of the sailors would hurt others in the military who risk their lives in dangerous, ambiguous situations.

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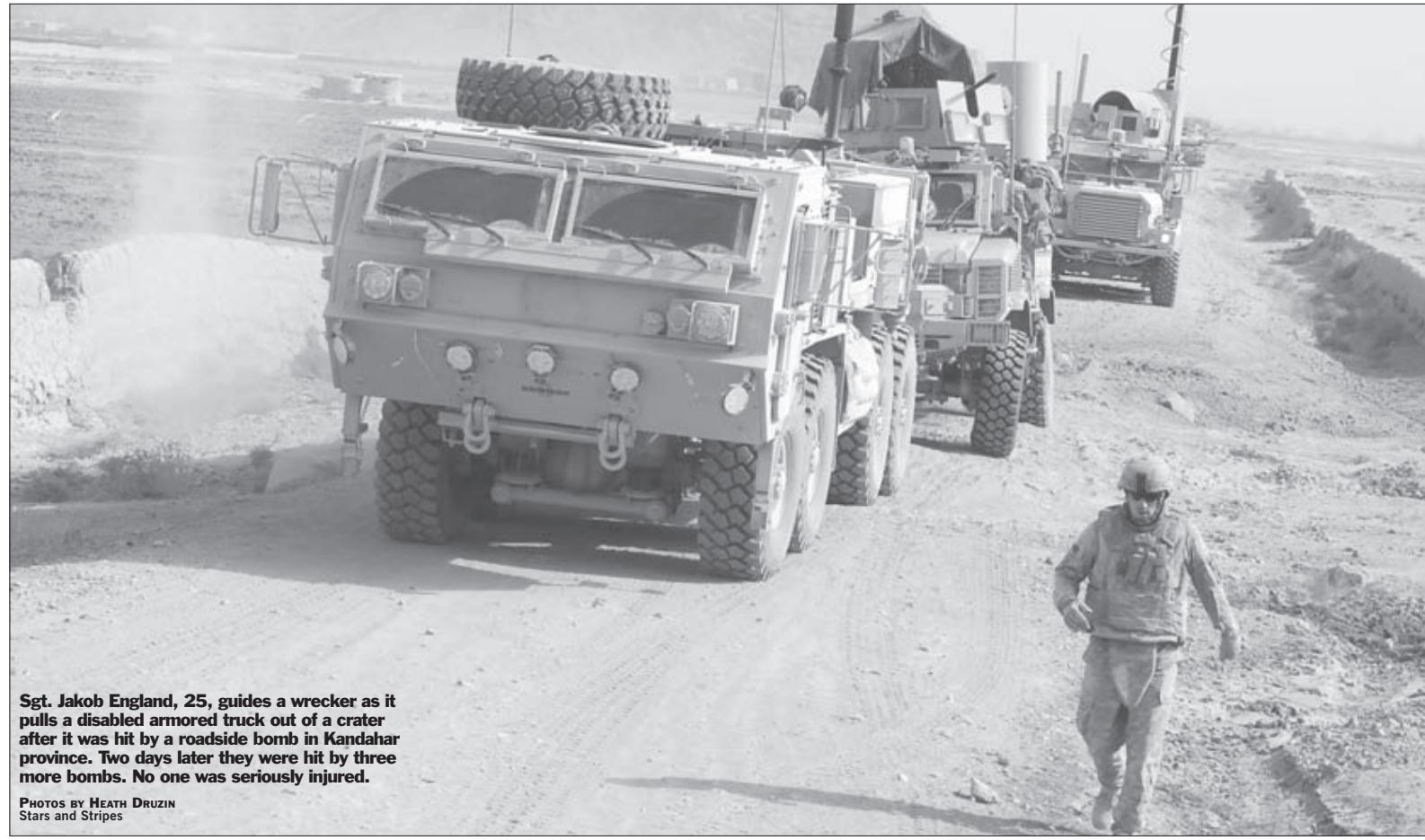
Courtesy of www.navy.mil

STARS AND STRIPES.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7, 2009





**Sgt. Jakob England, 25, guides a wrecker as it pulls a disabled armored truck out of a crater after it was hit by a roadside bomb in Kandahar province. Two days later they were hit by three more bombs. No one was seriously injured.**

PHOTOS BY HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

## Road: GIs work to combat Taliban's new weapon of choice — secondary bombs

### ROAD, FROM PAGE 1

Sticking your face in a culvert that might well explode takes some getting used to. Or, as Pfc. Marty Wright put it more bluntly: "You've got to have balls to do what we do."

Stealth is not a route clearance team's strong suit. When you roll in 15-ton vehicles, you're hard to miss, and insurgents study the soldiers' procedures and adapt. The teams rely on heavy armor, their trucks designed specifically to take a blast and deflect its force away from the passengers.

With every improvement in armor, though, the bombs get bigger. With every new technology to detect and deflect bombs, more sophisticated explosives pop up with deadly consequences.

For soldiers in the 3rd Platoon of the 4th Engineer Battalion's 62nd Engineer Sapper Company, the armored vehicles were not enough.

They recently went on a straightforward-sounding run to a small base tucked into the mountains in the Panjwai district to check on a couple of troublesome roads and to clear the way for Canadian forces battling for control of a Taliban stronghold.

But it turned into a bomb-plagued 19-hour endurance test. Three bomb blasts in three hours blew one of platoon's vehicles apart, damaged bomb-detecting equipment and meant that many of the combat engineers were spending much of the day as foot



**Soldiers with 4th Engineer Battalion, 62nd Engineer Sapper Company, 3rd Platoon pray before a mission conducted the day after their convoy was hit by three roadside bombs.**

soldiers. They walked the dirt road and farm fields in a dusty, gaping valley southwest of Kandahar, trying to find secondary bombs.

If something went "boom," the heavily armored trucks just a few yards away wouldn't do them much good.

The first bomb of the day left a 4-foot-deep crater the length of the road, violently jerking the front of an RG-31 into the air. The second, smaller bomb hit just a couple of hundred yards farther, damaging another RG-31's rollers, a set of wheels in front of the trucks meant to take the brunt of the blast before the truck does.

In between, 3rd Platoon soldiers got out of their trucks and eyed the surrounding farms in a

dusty, gaping valley for possible ambushes, scouring the area for secondary bombs. With uneven, overgrown terrain, there seemed to be an infinite number of hiding places for explosives.

As the engineers pushed on, there came the familiar, soul-shaking thud. A breathless silence followed in a nearby vehicle as a tan-black cloud of earth and smoke billowed up from the road.

"Three (bombs) in one day — that's a hat trick," said Spc. Zackary Thompson, a 20-year-old gunner still suffering the effects of a concussion he got when he smacked his head on a .50-caliber machine gun in the day's first blast.

The 4th Engineer Battalion has lost 11 soldiers this deployment with an additional 18 injured se-

For more photos of 4th Engineer Battalion's bomb-clearing mission, go to [stripes.com/go/clear](http://stripes.com/go/clear)

verely enough to be flown out of the country for treatment. On this day, no one was seriously injured.

Pvt. Shayne Shipley, 19, of Douglas, Wyo., is one of the few soldiers in his platoon who has not been in a vehicle hit by an improvised explosive device. After spending the first part of the day lamenting his luck, hoping for a hit and the Combat Action Badge that comes with it, he had changed his mind after the three blasts.

"I don't want to get hit by an IED anymore after seeing what happened to that Husky," he said quietly, referring to the damaged mine detection vehicle.

Eighteen hours into the mission and already missing an RG-31 from a bomb blast two days before, the troops now were out of a Husky, too. Worse, it appeared almost certain that more bombs lay ahead on the road. And the night had become pitch black, making it even more treacherous.

Fortunately, Canadian forces were nearby. Their Badger, a tank-bulldozer hybrid made to cut temporary roads out of the dirt, was called in. For a group used to clearing paths for other troops, it was time to take a back seat and follow the Badger to safety through farm fields on a road too new for bombs.

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# IN THE WORLD

# Jury convicts U.S. student of killing roommate in Italy

**Victim's family 'satisfied' with the verdict**

BY ALESSANDRA RIZZO  
AND MARTA FALCONI  
*The Associated Press*

PERUGIA, Italy — Amanda Knox sought comfort from visiting family members Saturday on her first day in prison since being convicted of murdering her British roommate.

The family of victim Meredith Kercher said the verdict brought a measure of justice. However, they said, it was not a time to celebrate.

Knox, a college student from Seattle, was tired and upset following the midnight verdict and sentence of 26 years in prison, according to family members and a lawyer who saw her.

"Amanda like the rest is extremely disappointed, upset about the decision," Knox's mother, Edda Mellas, said after the visit

to the prison just outside Perugia. "We told her that she's gonna get out of here. It's gonna take a little longer."

Knox and Kercher's families came to this central Italian town for the verdict, which was announced at around midnight after 13 hours of deliberations. The court also convicted Knox's co-defendant and former boyfriend, Italian Raffaele Sollecito, and gave him a 25-year jail term for the murder.

Knox and Sollecito are appealing the verdicts.

"She couldn't sleep all night," said lawyer Luciano Ghirga, who spent an hour with Knox at her jail just outside Perugia on Saturday morning. "She's worried for her parents, too, but she is keeping the faith needed for the next steps."

Ghirga said Knox was kept under strict surveillance. He denied reports that she had been put under suicide watch, which is the standard practice in such cases.

Kercher, 21, was Knox's roommate while they studied in Perugia.

Her body was found in a pool

of blood with her throat slit on Nov. 2, 2007, at the apartment they shared. Prosecutors said the Leeds University student was murdered the previous night.

Meredith still leaves a big hole in our lives and her presence is missed every time we meet up as a family," John Kercher Jr., one of her brothers, told a press conference in Perugia.

Kercher's sister, Stephanie, said the verdict "does bring a little bit

of justice, for us and for her." But she added: "Life will never be the same without Mez."

Kercher's families and her supporters have long sought to cast doubt on the Italian justice system, contending the prosecution's case largely rested on character assassination.

Knox also was convicted of defaming a Congolese man whom she initially accused of the killing.



**Knox**

**Stephanie and Arline Kercher, sister and mother of slain student Meredith Kercher, arrive in Perugia, Italy, on Friday. The jury deliberated for 13 hours before announcing that American student Amanda Knox had been convicted of murder and sentenced to 26 years in prison.**

of blood with her throat slit on Nov. 2, 2007, at the apartment they shared. Prosecutors said the Leeds University student was murdered the previous night.

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# Report: N. Korean defectors to be shot

*The Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has ordered its border guards to open fire on anyone who crosses its border without permission, in what could be an attempt to thwart defections by people disgruntled over its recent currency reform, a news report said Saturday.

The National Defense Commission — the top government body headed by North Korean leader Kim Jong Il — recently instructed soldiers to kill unauthorized border crossers on the spot, South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper said, citing unidentified sources inside the North.

It said the order could be an attempt by the communist government to stop members of North Korea's middle class who are angry over suddenly being deprived of their money from leaving the country.

Thousands of North Koreans have defected to South Korea in recent years. Last year, about 2,800 North Koreans arrived in the South, up from about 2,500 in 2007.

The reported move came amid signs of growing anger among North Korean citizens left with hoards of worthless bills.



STEFANO MEDICI/AP



URAL-INFORM TV/AP

**In this combination of images from amateur video, customers — some still carrying their drinks — press toward the exit as fire and smoke start to fill a packed nightclub in Perm, Russia, late Friday. Within seconds the smoke obscures the camera.**

# 106 dead in Russian nightclub fire

BY MANSUR MIROVALEV  
*The Associated Press*

PERM, Russia — A blaze sparked by onstage fireworks tore through a nightclub ceiling covered in decorative twigs and plastic sheeting early Saturday, killing at least 106 people in Russia's deadliest fire since the fall of the Soviet Union, witnesses and officials said.

At least 130 people were injured, dozens critically, when onstage fireworks set the ceiling of the Lame Horse nightclub ablaze soon after midnight, witnesses and officials said. Many victims were trapped in a panicked crush for the exit as they attempted to escape the flames and thick black smoke.

Video recorded by a clubgoer and shown on Russian television showed celebrants dancing before

sparks from pyrotechnic fountains on stage ignited the club's ceiling around midnight. Witness Svetlana Kuvshinova said the blaze swiftly consumed twigs decorating the ceiling. Russian clubs and restaurants often cover ceilings with plastic insulation and a layer of willow twigs to create a rustic look.

"The fire took seconds to spread," Kuvshinova said. "It was like a dry haystack. There was only one way out. They nearly stamped me."

The video showed people reluctantly heading toward the exit, some of them turning back to look at the burning ceiling. Within seconds they started rushing away in panic as flames begin to spread faster.

Russian officials said club managers had ignored repeated demands from authorities to change the interior to comply with fire safety standards.

# Martial law declared in Philippine province

*The Associated Press*

GENERAL SANTOS, Philippines — The Philippine president imposed martial law Saturday on a southern province, and security forces detained the patriarch of a powerful clan and three of his sons, accusing them of massacring 57 people and fomenting a rebellion.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was accused of overreacting by invoking emergency powers in response to the country's worst incident of political violence. It was the first time martial law has been declared in the country since the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos imposed it more than three decades ago.

The head of the clan, Andal Ampatuan Sr. — a former governor — and at least six other family members who have ruled impoverished Maguindanao province unopposed for years, are the main suspects in the Nov. 23 attack on a rival's convoy. Some 30 journalists were among the dead. The family has denied involvement.

The Ampatuans, notorious for running a large private army, have previously been allied with Arroyo, who received crucial

votes from the volatile southern region during 2004 elections.

The martial law proclamation allows troops to make arrests without court warrants and to restore order, Arroyo's top Cabinet member, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, announced on national television early Saturday. Arroyo can enforce martial law for 60 days, unless Congress revokes or extends it.

Former President Fidel Ramos, who was a supporter of Arroyo but has recently been critical of her actions, described her move as "overkill."

Ermita cited military reports as saying heavily armed supporters of the Ampatuans had "plans to undertake hostile action" if clan members were arrested.

"We felt that this is a very imminent threat, so we recommended this proclamation," military chief of staff Gen. Victor Ibrado said. "By their sheer number, they are really a threat to the peace and order of the province."

Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said the arrested men would be charged with rebellion, which carries a penalty of up to 40 years in prison.

## IN THE STATES

# Response to Afghan troop surge muted

BY BEN EVANS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The switchboards and e-mail inboxes of members of Congress are not seeing much of a surge from President Barack Obama's plan to send more U.S. troops into Afghanistan.

Health care and Wall Street bailouts? Those issues light up the phones.

But lawmakers say their constituents seem to be too war-weary or preoccupied with matters at home to be making their voices heard in large numbers on Obama's troop increase.

"I think people are distracted, rightfully so, with economic issues," said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus and the only lawmaker to vote against the Afghanistan war authorization in 2001. "It's a very desperate situation. People are losing their health care and their jobs."

Obama announced Tuesday that he will send 30,000 additional troops into the war, now in its ninth year, and set a timeline for starting troop withdrawals in July 2011.

The public's muted reaction is being mirrored by Congress. There's an air of resignation among lawmakers and little talk of trying to block or make significant

changes to Obama's plan. Even liberals who disagree with the president have measured their criticisms, while conservatives who support a troop buildup were left with little choice but to go along.

Lawmakers said the calls they're getting are mixed, with the most vocal commentary coming from critics of Obama's plan.

Republican Rep. Doug Lamborn, who represents a large military constituency around Colorado Springs, Colo., reported getting about a dozen calls immediately following the president's speech. The most consistent message was, "Don't get us involved in another Vietnam," said Lamborn spokeswoman Catherine Mortensen.

Lee and another leading war critic, Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., said they weren't interpreting the lack of an outcry as a sign of support. Lee pointed to polls such as one by the Pew Research Center that found just 32 percent of respondents favored sending more troops into Afghanistan, while 40 percent wanted fewer.

It's not as if people aren't paying attention. Nearly 41 million people watched Obama's speech on Tuesday, his largest audience since he addressed a joint session of Congress on health care on Feb. 24, according to Nielsen Co.

## Fans greet Palin at Fort Hood



JACK PLUNKETT/AP

Sarah Palin, left, greets Capt. Mike Spikes on Friday during a book signing at Fort Hood, Texas. Hundreds of people came out to see Palin visit the base as part of a book tour. Palin gave a \$10,000 check for a fund set up to help soldiers affected by the Nov. 5 shooting at Fort Hood, said Ron Taylor, senior vice president of Fort Hood National Bank.

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# FACES

BY LUIS ARROYAVE  
Chicago Tribune

**R**ob Zombie has made a name for himself outside of music by writing and directing four horror films, including two "Halloween" movies, but now the 44-year-old heavy-metal legend feels it's time to make

"Punisher: War Zone" until he realized he wasn't interested in directing the action film. He hopes his next film will be another action flick, "Tyrannosaurus Rex," which is about a washed-up boxer who gets into the world of underground fighting after he's released from prison.

There has also been talk of Zombie remaking "The Blob." The film, which



CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

a name for himself outside of the horror genre.

Zombie doesn't know what his "coming out" project will be. He's busy touring, his fourth solo studio album, "Hellbilly Deluxe 2," comes out Feb. 2, and he recently switched to Roadrunner Records after 18 years with Geffen. But he knows he doesn't want his next movie to be a horror flick.

"If you go down that road too far, it's hard to break out of it," Zombie said last week. "I don't want to get stuck with anything. I want the freedom to do what I want to do."

Zombie, whose real name is Robert Cummings, was attached to 2008's

has yet to get the green light, would mark Zombie's second time remaking a horror monster. His 2007 "Halloween" remake grossed \$80 million worldwide at the box office, but the film was met with backlash from fans who didn't want to see the John Carpenter movie remake.

What did Zombie think of the criticism? He couldn't care less, he said, laughing. Although there could be more "Halloween" movies, Zombie said he doesn't expect to be part of them.

"I have no interest in it at all," he said. "I made the second one because any John Carpenter-ness had been taken away by the end of the first movie, so it was, 'OK, this could be 100 percent my own thing.' After that, me and the actors involved

were like, 'Enough is enough.'

For somebody who puts on a sweaty, high-energy metal show, Zombie is surprisingly laid back. He said he wasn't always that way.

When he first stepped into the limelight, he felt like everything was "the end of the world." But now, 17 years after making his major label debut with his former band,

White Zombie, he feels he is calmer and more carefree.

"I'm more relaxed about stuff," said Zombie, who made eye contact once in a 10-minute interview. "You've been there and done that, so it's not your first time. Every time I make a movie, I'm more relaxed about it. It doesn't mean it's easier, but you know it'll get done somehow."

## Katey Sagal skewing maternal with latest material

BY GREG BRAXTON  
Los Angeles Times

**K**atey Sagal is back in mom-mie-not-so-dearest mode. The actress was hardly the model mother as the wise-cracking, lazy housewife Peg Bundy on Fox's "Married ... With Children." But that character would be Mother of the Year next to Gemma Teller Morrow, the ruthless matriarch of an outlaw biker club on FX's "Sons of Anarchy."

The role on the drama, which has grown in its second season to one of the cable network's most popular dramas, is the latest in a gallery of TV mothers for Sagal, who also played a soccer mom on the comedy "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter."

ALLEN J.  
SCHABEN/Los  
Angeles Times

After 11 seasons as Peg Bundy on "Married With Children," Katey Sagal is playing the matriarch on the drama "Sons of Anarchy."

While thrilled over the growing popularity of "Sons of Anarchy," which was created by her husband, Kurt Sutter, she still finds time for her first love, music. She often performs at the intimate M Club in Hollywood. .

**Your character was introduced last season as this tough-as-nails matriarch. But this season started out with her being brutally attacked by a white supremacist (Henry Rollins).**

Gemma's been undone, and there needed to be an incident of that magnitude to undo her. This is a person who has had it tough from the jump and has a very tough skin. This threatens her family and threatens her sexuality, which is very important to Gemma. It makes her ask all kind of karma questions, God kind of questions that Gemma had shoved away years ago.

**When your executive producer and husband Kurt Sutter told you what you would have to endure this season, did you raise your eyebrows a bit?**

He explained it to me in the context of the bigger story he was trying to tell, so it made sense. It wasn't gratuitous. Sure, I was a little apprehensive, but I know these kinds of things are handled really delicately. I also know Henry is a really sweet guy. He was probably more nervous than me. I'm sure he was a little on edge.

**You've definitely portrayed a distinctive range of TV mothers.**

They're all different, but all similar in that they are all loving in their own special, unique ways. In "Married ... With Children," the overriding thing was that the family stayed

together. As much as they acted like they didn't like each other, you look at the big picture, and there was no divorce. That to me was a statement of love. Gemma seems the most complex. She loves these people, she doesn't want to see anything happen to her little world. She will protect that to no end.

**After "Married ... With Children," what was the industry perception of you in terms of handling meaty dramatic roles?**

Certainly in terms of casting me in series situations, I had to prove that I had those chops. But that's always been OK with me. When you do something for 11 years, there's a perception of who you are and what you do. It does take a minute to turn that around. And with me, it took a minute.

**Were you OK with that?**

It's all kind of a blessing. "Married ... With Children" gave me opportunities I never imagined I would have. Sometimes it would be a little frustrating, but I don't want to put it in terms like, "What a drag." I don't look on it in that way. I've worked all this time. So how bad can it be?

**Music always seems to be a key part of your life. Are people surprised when they find out you're a singer?**

My ambition was to be a singer-songwriter and to make records. It wasn't until my late 20s that I thought, "I'm struggling with this too much. I need to open up my vision."

**Describe your music.**

What I do is what I write, all soulful and folky. (Laughs). Now when I try to write, I have nothing to say because I'm in a very good place.

**ON BEING PEG BUNDY:**  
**"It's all kind of a blessing.**

**'Married ... With Children'**

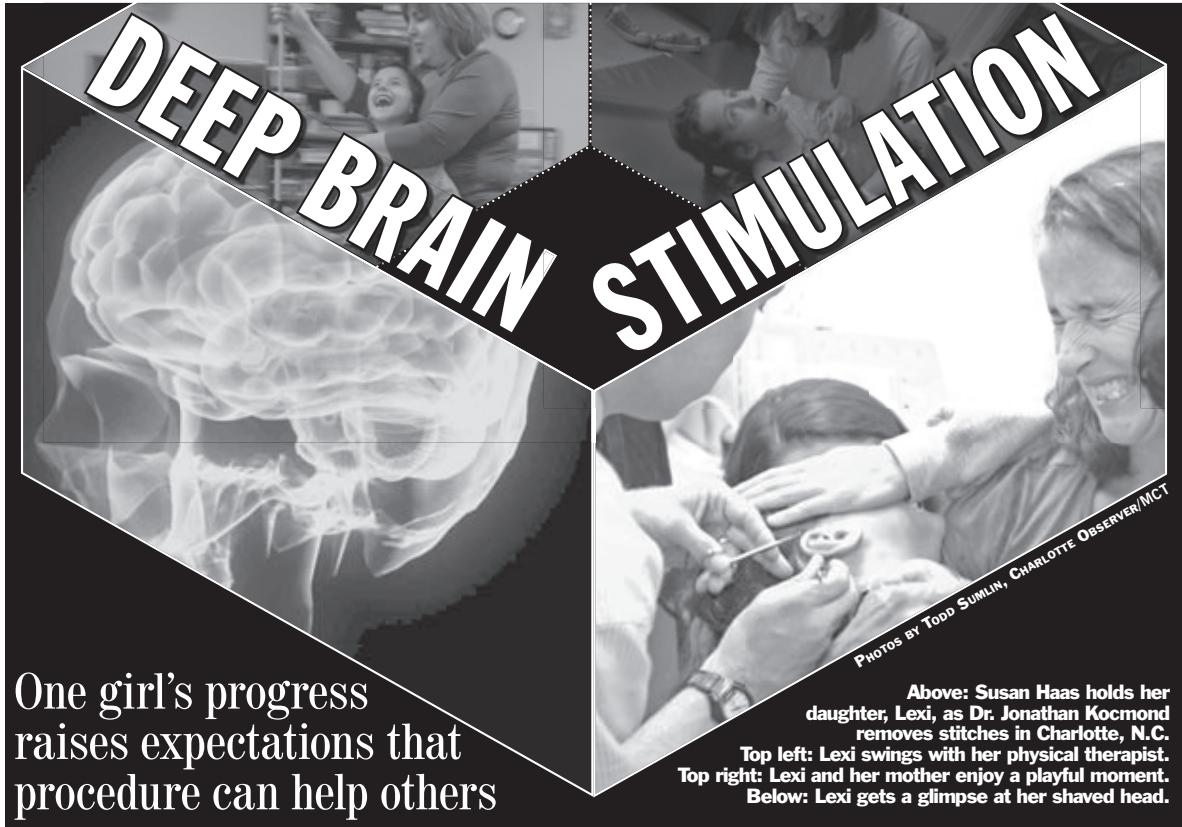
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**like, 'What a drag.' I don't look on it in that way. I've worked all this time. So how bad can it be?"**



## SCIENCE &amp; MEDICINE



One girl's progress  
raises expectations that  
procedure can help others

BY ELIZABETH LELAND  
*McClatchy Newspapers*

**L**exi Haas is awakening into a world of new possibilities.

She is making her body do what she wants — instead of her body always controlling her. Some weeks ago, she looked up at her mother, pursed her lips and, for the first time in her life, Lexi blew a kiss.

She scribbled with a marker. Sat in her wheelchair without her back arching, her legs going rigid and her mother having to wrestle her down. She touched her hair. Slept through the night. Held her doll.

Parents around the world are watching the girl from Charlotte, who cannot walk and has never said aloud more than a few words at a time. Four months after pioneering brain surgery, Lexi has given them something many had lost: hope for a better life for their children.

Her accomplishments may seem small by most standards. But they promise bigger changes for Lexi and other girls and boys trapped inside their bodies from brain damage caused by excessive jaundice as newborns.

Lexi, 7, is now undergoing deep brain stimulation to try to reverse the damage.

She has a Facebook page, with 2,609



fans, where other families are following her progress.

"Lexi has given us the first realm of excitement," said Vicki Dornbos of Spokane, Wash., whose 5-year-old son, Zachary, has the same type of brain damage, called kernicterus.

Deep brain stimulation is working like a pacemaker on Lexi's brain, pumping timed electrical pulses into her damaged basal ganglia. Doctors hoped the stimulation would shut down the abnormal brain activity that causes her erratic movements and

allow Lexi to gain control over her body.

"We are seeing encouraging signs," said Dr. Steven Shapiro, a kernicterus expert at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, where Lexi had surgery. "She is getting some benefits even earlier than we expected."

Based on how Lexi does, neurologist Kathryn Holloway said they may consider deep brain stimulation for other children with kernicterus.

Lexi's treatment began in July. Holloway implanted electrodes into her brain, then

*"We are  
seeing  
encouraging  
signs."*

**Dr. Steven Shapiro**  
kernicterus expert  
at the Virginia  
Commonwealth  
University Medical  
Center

embedded a battery-operated stimulator into her abdomen. Lexi nicknamed the stimulator "Hope." Holloway activated it in late August. She started slowly, directing a low voltage of electricity to two of eight possible contact points in Lexi's brain.

Holloway warned Lexi's parents not to expect immediate results. But from the moment the neurostimulator was turned on, Lexi's body visibly relaxed. That night, she slept without waking until morning. Her muscles no longer moved constantly, so she was able to rest for the first time in her life. Because her muscles no longer move as much, she doesn't burn as many calories and doesn't need to eat as often. And she no longer throws up after eating.

She has returned to Richmond three times to have the voltage turned up. Each time, she has come home with a gift: The strength to hold a marker and push it across a sheet of paper. The coordination to keep her head upright without her neck muscles pulling it off to one side. Breath enough to say, "trick or treat!"

Before, if Lexi tried to raise her arm, her whole body would set in motion, legs flailing, arms flapping, head jerking, preventing her from doing the one thing she wanted to do. It still takes a lot of effort for her to do something as deliberate as raise one arm. But as often as not, the rest of her body now stays put.

On good days, the possibilities seem boundless in Lexi's imagination. She will walk. She will talk. On bad days, when her body refuses to cooperate, she feels a frustration she never knew. Before, she felt no expectation to do something as simple as hold her doll, or as dramatic as take a step. Now she does. If she fails, she worries she will let everyone down.

The kernicterus affected every muscle in Lexi's body. It's clear from the way her lips move that she knows how to form words, but rarely can she coordinate her muscles and get enough breath to make herself understood. She communicates by pointing to words and letters taped onto a cookie sheet, a painstaking process.

Asked last week how the deep brain stimulation has changed her, Lexi worked out her answer off and on for several days, letter by letter, her arm struggling against errant muscles pulling it in the wrong direction.

"Hope makes my body feel quieter," she said. "Sometimes I can't do the things I want and it is frustrating, but mostly my body is getting better. ... I would like to walk before my powerchair comes back home so I won't have to use it."

Lexi still rides in a wheelchair. Her arms still tend to fly about and have to be strapped down. Her head still flops forward when you least expect it. But since the surgery, she doesn't have to fight her muscles constantly the way she once did.

"Her body is so much more manageable," said Gail Fennimore, her physical therapist at Child & Family Development. "It's so much more livable. If she got nothing more than that, it would be worth it."



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# YOUR MONEY

## Bank of America's TARP repayment puts pressure on Citigroup, Wells Fargo

By STEVENSON JACOBS  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bank of America's surprise move to pay back \$45 billion in federal bailout money ratchets up pressure on rivals Wells Fargo and Citigroup to get out from under the government's thumb. But don't expect it to happen anytime soon.

That's because many banks, including Citi and Wells Fargo, still face big losses on loans as people fall behind on bills — losses that could further erode their capital and put them in danger.

Moreover, the government may be reluctant to let them repay until they're confident that no further assistance will be needed. If the economy were to seriously weaken again, the government could be forced to inject more money into big banks.

Bank of America Corp. said Wednesday it will use available cash and raise \$18.8 billion in capital to repay the money, which it received during the height of the credit crisis last year. It would become the first of seven companies that received "exceptional" government assistance — bailout funds beyond the initial TARP injections — to pay back taxpayers in full.

In doing so, Bank of America would join JPMorgan Chase & Co., Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group as large banks that have cut ties with the government — and broken free of limits on executive compensation and other restrictions. While those

### Paying back

Bank of America has said it will pay back bailout funds to the U.S. Treasury by the end of the year. Who's paid back and who hasn't yet, among largest recipients of federal money (**repaid in bold**):

Financial institution	TARP funds, in billions
Bank of America	<b>\$45.0</b>
Citigroup	<b>45.0</b>
JPM Chase	<b>25.0</b>
Wells Fargo	<b>25.0</b>
Goldman Sachs	10.0
Morgan Stanley	10.0
PNC Financial	7.6
US Bancorp	6.6
SunTrust	4.9
Capital One	3.6
Regions Financial	3.5
American Express	3.4
Fifth Third Bancorp	3.4

Source: U.S. Treasury MCT

banks also have had steep loan losses, they've been able to offset much of the damage with strong profits in their trading divisions.

Like other big banks, Citigroup Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. have been beset by losses on loans from mortgages to credit cards as a growing number of consumers struggle to pay off debt. Citigroup reported \$8 billion in loan losses in the third quarter compared with \$5.1 billion for Wells Fargo.

Citigroup has received \$45 billion in federal aid and guarantees to protect against losses on more than \$300 billion in risky assets. In return, the government got a 34 percent ownership stake in the banking giant.

### EXCHANGE RATES

#### Military rates

Japanese yen (Dec. 7)	86.00
South Korean won (Dec. 7)	1,124.00
Euro costs (Dec. 7)	\$1.5444
Dollar buys (Dec. 7)	€0.6475
British pound (Dec. 7)	£1.70

#### Commercial rates

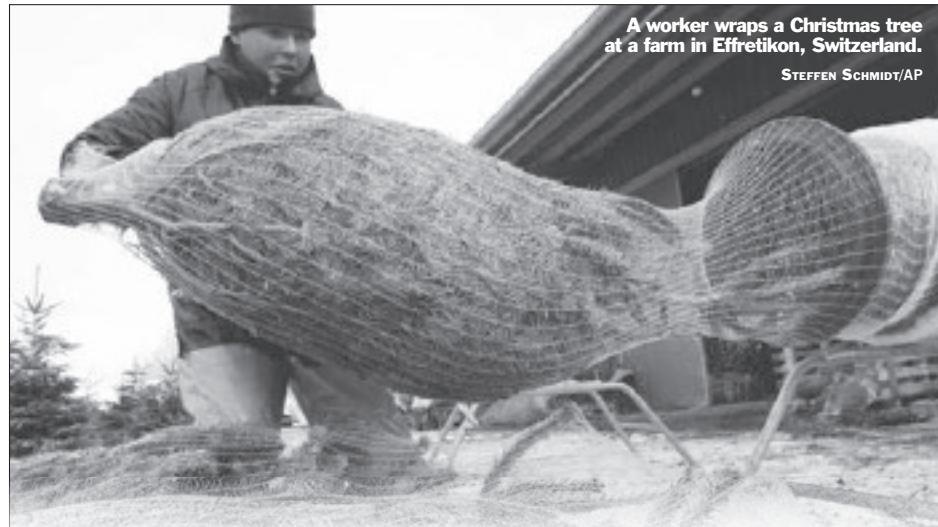
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	£1.6429
Canada (Dollar)	1.0589
China (Yuan)	6.8276
Denmark (Krone)	5.0201
Egypt (Pound)	5.4559
Euro	€1.4827/0.6744
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7500
Hungary (Forint)	181.79
Israel (Shekel)	3.7956
Japan (Yen)	90.70
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2859
Norway (Krone)	5.7038
Philippines (Peso)	46.12
Poland (Zloty)	2.74
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3896
South Korea (Won)	1,150.20
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0188
Thailand (Baht)	33.16
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4916

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	4.40

Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press



A worker wraps a Christmas tree at a farm in Effretikon, Switzerland.

STEFFEN SCHMID/AP

# Real vs. fake

## What kind of Christmas tree will work for you?

MICHELLE CHAPMAN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With images of spray-on snow and tacky plastic needles dancing in their heads — especially after the craze for renditions in red — many holiday purists dismiss fake Christmas trees.

Pragmatists tally the time and energy spent growing and buying a real tree and tending it indoors and see advantages in the artificial, however — like not having to clean up needles and sap or even string lights in some cases.

While environmental concerns weigh in favor of real trees and artificial trees cost less over time, it may be most helpful to think of your tree choice as a question of

style.

Do you cherish braving the chill winter air — perhaps the whole family heading all the way to the tree farm — to choose a tree to bring home and decorate? Or is the natural aroma of pine, spruce or fir outweighed by the predictability of a perfectly triangular tree that's always the right height for your living room?

Here are some ways to compare.

**1. Pricing the tree:** A real tree can cost less than \$10 but typically runs closer to \$100 or more, depending on size and species. Artificial trees generally sell for \$25 to about \$400 but can hit \$2,000, depending on size and features like lighting and stands and extras like storage bags. So a fake tree is likely to be cheaper once you spread the cost over the typical five- to 10-year lifespan.

**2. The hassle factor:** Real trees can bring some real headaches. Even with proper watering, a pine purchased at Thanksgiving may be crispy by Christmas, and the dropped needles can keep surfacing for months afterward. In contrast, an artificial tree — with no upkeep — will be just as pretty on Twelfth Night as it was the day you put it up.

Still, fake trees must be assembled before use and then dismantled and stored in the off season. The 17-cubic-foot storage bag for a six- to nine-foot-tall tree can pose a significant challenge to an apartment dweller.

**3. The environmental argument:** If you see the tragedy of unrealized potential in the brevity of a Christmas tree's moment in the spotlight, take heart. Most real Christmas trees are reused;

close to 5,000 private and municipal programs across the country grind holiday trees into mulch or landscaping chips, according to Rick Dungey of the National Christmas Tree Association.

Most of the land used for tree farming is ill-suited to other crops, while farmed trees grow in roughly the same density as natural trees so they absorb similar amounts of carbon dioxide while they're growing.

As for fake trees, those still in good condition can be donated or resold with minimal additional costs. A crafter may also try her hand at breaking down a fake tree with bolt cutters to make wreaths or garlands. But once a fake tree starts disintegrating, it's no longer safe or pleasing to use in any form.

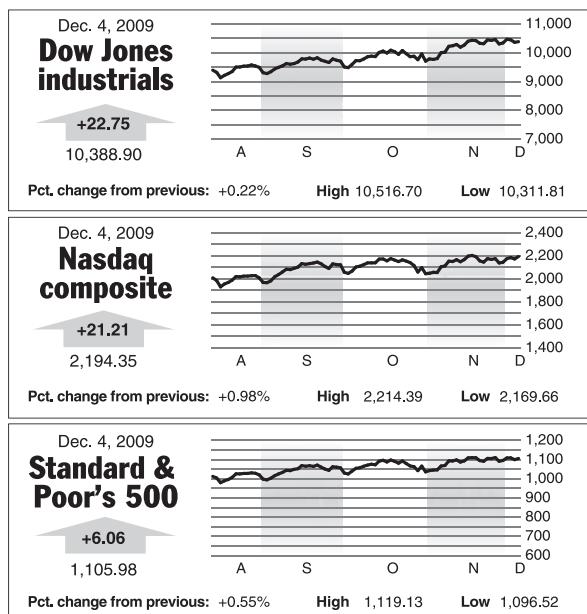
*Even with proper watering, a pine purchased at Thanksgiving may be crispy by Christmas.*

ing material.

**4. The stand, the skirt and the lights:** Here's where artificial trees come out way ahead. They require much less additional spending because they include a stand, often need no skirt and can be purchased with lights already attached.

Real trees, on the other hand, are used to having roots so they require a stand (\$15 to \$90) to remain upright. Then you'll want a skirt to hide the stand (another \$10 to \$50). A real tree also requires three or four (or more) strings of lights at \$2 to \$20 each for incandescents, depending on color, shape and volume. LED — or light-emitting diode — lights cost more but can last five times longer.

### A DAY ON WALL STREET



SOURCE: SunGard

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## A new concept for Cheney

(Former Vice President) Dick Cheney is running his mouth again and conservatives act like everything Cheney says is the gospel. After all the false information put out by Cheney, how can conservatives still believe him? I'll explain how with a concept I call the "Conservatives' Conceived Crap Theory."

CCCT is the belief that conservatives in general and Cheney and (former President George W.) Bush in particular were better able to keep America safe. Even when confronted with facts, conservatives will default to the CCCT concept. The only way to fight this concept is to keep telling the truth.

Under Bush and Cheney, America suffered the worst one-sided defeat the world had ever seen. Yet, that hasn't stopped Fox News and conservatives from saying that they [Bush and Cheney] kept America safe. They would quietly say they meant after 3,000 Americans were killed. The problem is that after the Sept. 11 attacks, America suffered the worse biological attack in the history of our country. Weapons-grade anthrax was used to target our government, kill our people and terrorize our country for weeks. It was another terrorizing attack that happened on the Bush-Cheney watch.

The death from terrorist attacks was bad enough, but Cheney and the gang decided to get thousands more Americans killed in an unnecessary war in Iraq. This war was based completely on false information. Then, in true conservative fashion, they blamed everyone but themselves — the military, intelligence agencies and even the Iraqis for not having weapons of mass destruction.

Now, after rushing into Iraq with no clear plans or proven reasons, Cheney's conservatives have the nerve to attack President Barack Obama for taking time to confer with generals and advisers before expanding operations in Afghanistan. When Cheney and conservatives talk about how well they protected America, confront them with the truth.

James Carrethers  
 Kaiserslautern, Germany

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enemy.

Women in the military can be taken seriously, earning the respect of their male counterparts. However, we don't need to look like men in order to do so. The way soldiers (regardless of gender) conduct themselves, treat others and perform their jobs are what earn respect. Clinique, Mary Kay and Cover Girl have absolutely nothing to do with it.

We are women. Women wear makeup. If female servicemembers choose to don mascara, blush and lipstick along with their Advanced Combat Helmet and Improved Outer Tactical Vest, so be it.

I commend the United Service Organizations for creating more female-friendly care packages. Its consideration of female servicemembers' needs is greatly appreciated and long overdue.

Sgt. Hope DaCosta  
 Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

## Effects of religion's decline

"By its nature, monogamy isn't easy" (Opinion, David Barash, Nov. 28) was interesting. Wow, monogamy proving to be beneficial to both partners and their offspring — what a revelation!

It is only telling us what Christianity has been teaching for the past 2,000-plus years. Does it really take science to tell us something that religion has already espoused?

Religion doesn't seek to impose restrictions and discipline on human behavior for no reason, it does it because human beings are happier when they have structure and boundaries in their lives.

Don't whine to me about "freedom" of choice. If everyone had "freedom" and could do "whatever they wanted," our world would be a disaster.

The fact that many people in America do "what they want" anyway has become evident by the number of social ills affecting our country. Can anyone say there is a direct correlation between the alarming rise of social problems and the decline of religion in the everyday person's life?

First Lt. Nathan Loomis  
 Camp Kinser, Japan

## Plan carefully when choosing nursing home

Scripps Howard editorial

Increasingly one of life's landmarks is when the time comes to choose a nursing home.

It should be a carefully thought out process, but typically the decision is made when a loved one is about to be discharged from a hospital. Even on that tight deadline it's possible to make a good choice.

Lee Bowman, medical reporter for Scripps Howard News Service, talked to many of the nation's top experts on nursing homes to come up with some guidance. They recommend starting with the U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services' Nursing Home Compare, a database

that ranks 15,700 nursing facilities on a star system, from one star — "much below average" — to five stars — "much above average." Around 12 percent to 13 percent of nursing homes have the top rating; slightly more than 20 percent the lowest.

But the star system can be misleading. In a study of the CMS database, Scripps Howard came up with a few general principles to help read between the ratings:

■ Homes run by nonprofits, about two-thirds of all facilities, generally score better than those run by for-profits and tend to have more nursing staff per patient.

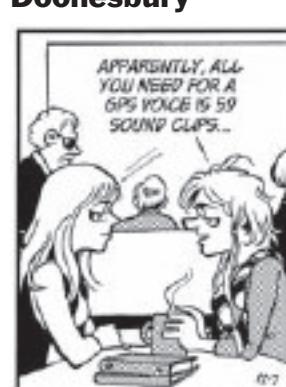
■ Homes with more than 100 beds tend to get lower scores in all categories, including health of residents and level of care.

Experts recommend finding a nursing home close to the patient's home [so] it's easier for family to visit. He also recommends meeting the home administrator and making visits to the facility at different times of the day to talk to the staff and inspect public areas for upkeep and cleanliness. Look for longevity among caregivers. If more than 25 percent of the staff are recent hires, it can be a worrisome sign.

The best recommendation is perhaps the hardest — plan early. It's human nature for a family to avoid discussing what happens when a loved one can no longer be looked after at home. ... [B]ut knowing in advance the patient's preferences and priorities removes much of the stress from the process.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury



## OPINION

## Little value in a spendthrift's admonition

BY JAY AMBROSE

Scripps Howard News Service

**C**oming as it did from a spendthrift, a phony-sounding moment of President Barack Obama's nationally televised West Point speech came when he said in so many words that, if we didn't end the war in Afghanistan quickly, the cost could go on indefinitely.

"In the wake of an economic crisis, too many of our friends and neighbors are out of work and struggle to pay the bills, and too many Americans are worried about the future facing our children," he intoned. "Meanwhile, competition within the global economy has grown more fierce. So we simply cannot afford to ignore the price of these wars (in Iraq and Afghanistan)."

He's right, of course — the government can't afford to ignore any large price of any kind. But there is a context here, namely the extraordinary spending Obama himself is now promoting and the fact that defense costs are minimal next to the most dramatic fiscal perils the country now faces.

He mentioned, for instance, that the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is closing in on \$1 trillion after eight years of a military presence, and that's an interesting figure, the same amount by which he has increased the national deficit in his first year as president.

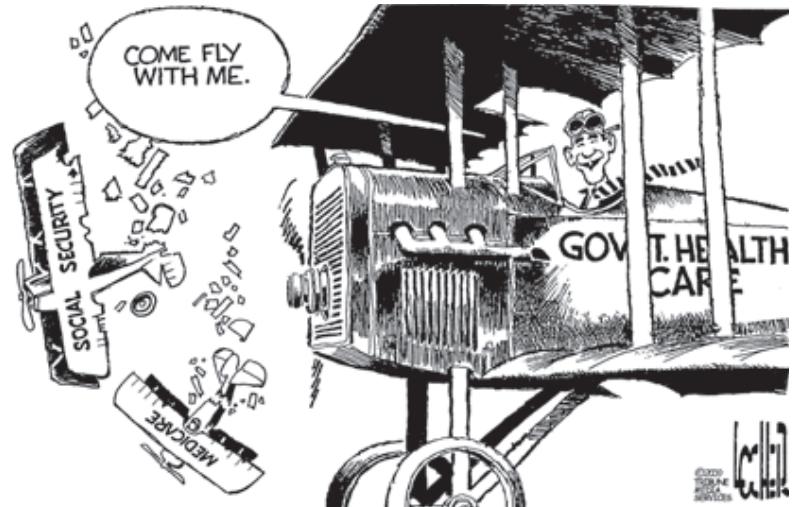
You can't put all the deficit blame on him — he obviously inherited a recession — but, as one example of recklessness, he did insist on rush-job passage of a \$787 billion stimulus that has since done diddly

squat to stop the unemployment surge. The price tag is more than three times the cost of just the war in Afghanistan (some \$233 billion), and some think the true cost of that stimulus legislation could be several trillion dollars over the next decade because of expanded program funding that could go on indefinitely.

Defense spending, it should be observed, is nowhere near the behemoth it once was. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, cutbacks began — President Bill Clinton alone reduced the military by a half million people, the number of active divisions in the Army by four and the number of Navy ships by more than 100, a review reminds us. Today, commentators such as Robert Samuelson point out, the defense part of the budget comes to something like 20 percent, including the cost of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, while the big boys on the block are Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

These three entitlements alone consume more than twice as much of the budget as defense, and the worst fiscal problem the country faces is tens of trillions of dollars owed to these programs without any non-ruinous means of footing the bill. What's Obama's answer? Another entitlement.

That's right, another entitlement, universal health insurance, accompanied by all sorts of whistles and bells. The average cost of a Senate version over a normal 10-year period would be \$2.5 trillion, according to Sen. Max Baucus, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. By the time you figure in governmental waste, understatements and gimmicks



Baucus likely failed to calculate, you can almost certainly add another half trillion on to that, some say.

So you are talking about a new, annual governmental health cost that would be more than twice the cost of Afghanistan and Iraq, and here's the kicker: At least one alternative plan could accomplish the central goals at no additional cost to the budget whatsoever by shifting health insurance tax breaks from employers to individuals.

None of this is to say that we should neglect the effort to victoriously conclude our

military involvement in Afghanistan or that the billions expended there are insignificant. We should understand instead that the current and anticipated costs make it that much more important to cut spending elsewhere. It does not follow that we are thereby barred from addressing all other problems if we set about doing so through prudent, non-statist steps that strangely do not appeal to our president.

Jay Ambrose, formerly Washington director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard newspapers and the editor of dailies in El Paso, Texas, and Denver, is a columnist living in Colorado.

## If a war's worth fighting, it's also worth funding

BY CHARLES A. STEVENSON

**C**ongress used to raise taxes to pay for America's wars. Isn't it time to return to that practice?

In 1798, Congress enacted its first direct tax — on land, houses and slaves — to pay for the naval expansion in what historians now call the Quasi-War with France.

In 1804, Congress levied a 2.5 percent tax on top of import duties already in effect to create a Mediterranean Fund to pay for additional ships and naval operations against the Barbary pirates.

Eight years later, Congress doubled existing import duties and levied new taxes, then issued bonds when that revenue proved inadequate to pay for the War of 1812 against Britain.

In the case of the Mexican-American War, 1846 to 1848, taxes covered about 40 percent of the costs, with borrowing required to pay for the rest.

The Civil War, 1861 to 1865, led to the first income tax, but 90 percent of the Union's costs were covered by money creation and debt.

In 1898, Congress enacted excise taxes on cosmetics, chewing gum, playing cards and theater admissions, and doubled tobacco and beer taxes. Lawmakers even voted for a tax on long-distance telephone calls that was not repealed until 2006. These measures wound up covering two-thirds of the cost of the Spanish-American War.

In World War I, Congress enacted a highly progressive income tax and a corporate excess-profits tax that together financed about 60 percent of the wartime costs.

In World War II, Congress raised income tax rates and lowered the point at which the tax kicked in, requiring almost 90 percent of U.S. workers to file tax returns. It also imposed a 95 percent excess-profits tax on businesses, established wage and price controls and rationed some goods. Even so,

taxes covered only about 40 percent of the costs of the war.

In 1950, Congress financed the Korean War entirely by taxation, with no borrowing.

Since then, presidents and Congress have been reluctant to raise taxes to pay for our wars. Congress voted for temporary 10 percent surcharges on income and corporate taxes in 1968 and 1969 to help pay for the Vietnam War, but President Lyndon Johnson mostly resorted to budgetary tricks to hide its real costs, which just added to the deficit.

We lucked out in the 1991 Persian Gulf War only because other nations contributed nearly 80 percent of the cost of U.S. military expenditures.

President George W. Bush refused to let the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq shrink his huge tax cuts. Since Sept. 11, 2001, those two conflicts have cost \$843 billion. Before the troop buildup Presi-

dent Barack Obama just announced, the Iraq/Afghanistan price tag for the next year was estimated at \$130 billion. Sending 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan will reportedly add an additional \$30 billion to \$40 billion to that bill.

Several senior Democrats in the House, led by Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis., have introduced what they call the Share the Sacrifice Act. It would impose an income surtax sufficient to cover each future year's cost of the Afghanistan war.

Obey's office estimates, for example, that a 1 percent levy would bring in revenue of \$68 billion, the pre-buildup budget for Afghanistan for 2010. Families earning up to \$150,000 would pay no more than \$226; 60 percent of the burden would fall on households earning more than \$250,000. The tax would not go into effect until the 2011 tax year, and it would not apply to people who served in a combat zone after the Sept. 11

attacks.

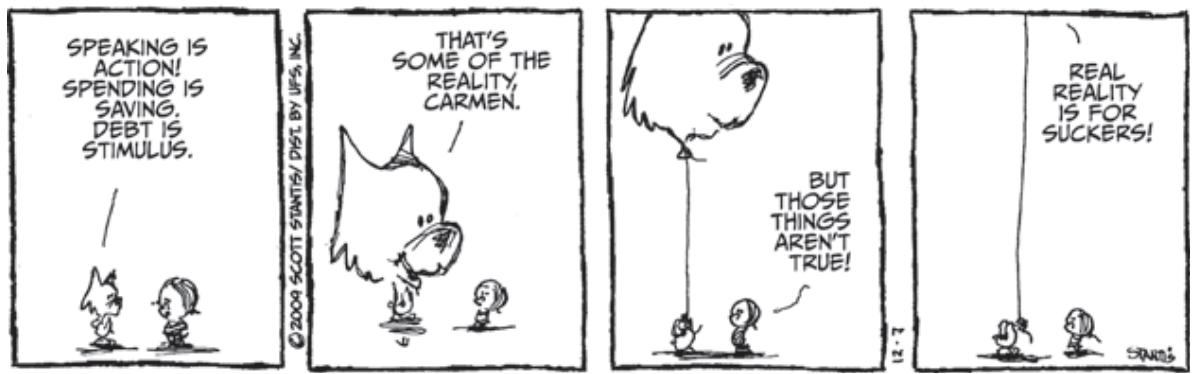
There are, of course, many other ways to calculate and impose taxes to offset the cost of the war in Afghanistan. Some lawmakers might also want to force the Pentagon to cut some of its other spending (\$681 billion this coming budget year, according to the Congressional Budget Office).

Whatever approach might be taken, the principle at stake is not to exclude military expenditures from sound budgeting — that is, we must raise revenue in some way to pay for what we're spending. With the federal deficit soaring to nearly \$1.4 trillion in 2010, Congress needs to explore a broad range of measures to limit the red ink.

The clever approach of the Share the Sacrifice Act is that it asks those of us who have not endured combat to pay a little extra to support those who are in harm's way on our behalf.

Charles A. Stevenson is the author of "Congress at War: The Politics of Conflict Since 1789." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

## Prickly City



By SCOTT STANTIS

## 13 years for man in daughter's death

**WA EVERETT** — A Washington state man has been sentenced to more than 13 years in prison in the fatal shooting of his 6-year-old daughter.

Richard Peters of Marysville was convicted of first-degree manslaughter in the Nov. 16, 2008, death of Stormy Peters. She was shot between the eyes at the family home.

Prosecutors said the 40-year-old man was drunk when he had Stormy get him a loaded gun from a bedroom nightstand. Peters maintained the .45-caliber Colt discharged accidentally.

Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Michael Downes sentenced Peters, saying the shooting was preventable. Defense lawyer Karen Halverson said Peters plans to appeal his conviction.

## Seized drugs include Obama, Smurfs pills

**TX PALMVIEW** — A traffic stop in south Texas yielded illegal drugs including pills in the shape of President Barack Obama.

Police in Palmview detained the driver after finding black tar heroin, cocaine, marijuana and several Ecstasy pills. Police said the Ecstasy was in brightly colored pills made to look like cartoon characters Homer Simpson, the Smurfs and even Obama.

Police spokesman Lenny Sanchez said the drugs look like a "vitamin for kids."

The 22-year-old driver in the traffic stop was expected to face felony drug possession counts.

Palmview is near the border with Mexico.

## Dive team recovers fisherman's body

**OR ASTORIA** — The Coast Guard said a dive team recovered the body of a 32-year-old crab fisherman who fell from a boat about 10 miles off the mouth of the Columbia River near the Oregon-Washington border.

He wasn't immediately identified.

The Coast Guard said the man was wearing rain gear and a jacket when he fell off the crab boat Ballad.

Two helicopters and three boats helped search for the man. A Clatsop County, Ore., dive team found his body in waters near Astoria.

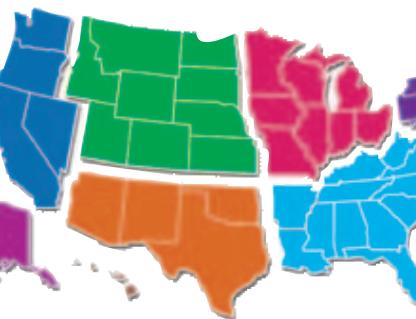
The Coast Guard rescued three people from a sinking crab boat near the entrance to Coos Bay, Ore. No injuries were reported, but the vessel Manatee eventually sank at the Coos Bay river bar entrance.

## Resort made famous by Elvis damaged by fire

**HI WAILUA** — The shuttered Coco Palms resort on Kauai made famous by Elvis Presley has been hit by fire and sustained about \$80,000 in damage.

Presley filmed his 1961 movie "Blue Hawaii" on the resort's lush grounds.

A Kauai County statement says firefighters were notified. They



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

controlled the blaze in about an hour, but were called back later to douse a flare-up.

About 1,000 square feet of a portion of the resort that had been occupied by a retailer was destroyed. A caretaker's office sustained water damage.

### Two face charges in counterfeit checks

**LA PINEVILLE** — Pineville Police have arrested two Texans in what they believe is a large ring of people creating and cashing counterfeit checks.

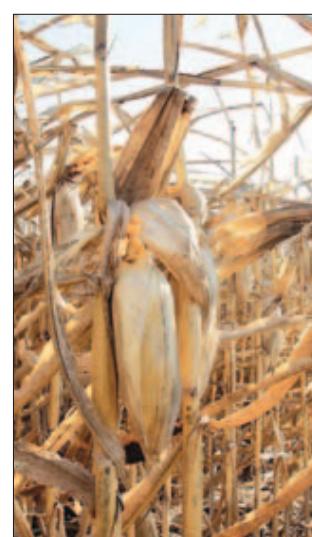
The Alexandria Daily Town Talks reported Anthony Simmons and Paul Flemings, both of Dallas, were arrested and booked with monetary instrument abuse. Flemings also was booked for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Police said they got a call that two men were at a bank trying to pass a counterfeit check.

Pineville Police, along with the U.S. Secret Service, continued to investigate. Police said more arrests are expected.

### Man dies snorkeling on Big Islands of S. Kohala

**HI HONOLULU** — A 62-year-old Washington state man died during a snorkel outing on the



### Harvest waiting

Unharvested corn stands in a field near Farmingdale, Ill. More than a quarter of Illinois' corn crop is still in wet, muddy fields as snow starts to fall and

Christmas nears. That puts one of the country's biggest corn producers near the back of the pack for the corn harvest. It will all be harvested, but the quality is likely to drop off and cost farmers.

Big Islands of South Kohala Coast. Police said John Linde of Harbor, Wash., was snorkeling with a friend when they became separated and the friend returned to shore.

A charter snorkeling boat later discovered Linde floating about 75 yards off shore. People on the vessel performed CPR until emergency personnel arrived.

Police said Linde was taken to North Hawaii Community Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

An autopsy was to be done to determine the cause of death.

### Toy shops open to help military families

**NC FORT BRAGG** — Volunteers are setting up "toy shops" at military bases around the country to give spouses and wounded soldiers the chance to pick up free toys for their children.

The nonprofit Operation Home-front will open a shop at Fort Bragg. Other shops will open at bases with the highest level of deployments, including Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Stewart, Ga.; and Fort Campbell, Ky.

The group expects to give toys and books to 3,000 military spouses and 10,000 military children.

### Bishop vote includes two gay candidates

**CA RIVERSIDE** — Clergy and laypeople voting to replace two retiring assistant bishops in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles will choose from a pool that includes two openly gay candidates.

The selection of one or both of the gay candidates at the diocese's annual convention would mark the first election of a bishop in a same-sex relationship since Bishop V. Gene Robinson was chosen in New Hampshire in 2003. Robinson lives with his longtime male partner.

There are six candidates in the election. The openly gay candidates are the Rev. John L. Kirkley of San Francisco and the Rev. Canon Mary D. Glasspool of Baltimore.

### Woman who avoided foreclosure locked out

**NJ TRENTON** — A New Jersey woman returned home from Thanksgiving with family to find the locks changed days after she avoided foreclosure.

Bank of America said it made a mistake.

Nina Morra was locked out of her fully furnished Trenton home for three days by an inspector hired by the bank.

The 57-year-old was away when the inspector showed up on Nov. 22. Bank of America spokeswoman Jumana Bauwens said the inspector changed the locks because he thought the dwelling was vacant. Morra had received a letter from the bank days earlier saying she had been accepted into a new payment program.

The bank spokeswoman said she thinks the lockout occurred because the timing was so close.

Morra became delinquent on her mortgage after she suffered a stroke in January.



### Fresh coat of snow

New Mexico State University student Cody Neyrinck, 19, stops to look at the snow falling on the campus grounds as he heads to work.



### Stay still a moment

San Diego Zoo veterinarian Tracy Clippinger, right, is assisted by Kathy Hawk, a senior keeper, as she listens to the heartbeat of Yun Zi, a 17-week-old giant panda cub. The 15.9-pound cub was more interested in walking than sitting.



### Here piggy, piggy

A lit flying pig is seen at the home of Tom and Sunny Conner in Oak Grove, Ky. The Connors, who decorate their rural Christian County home every year lavishly for Christmas, added 30 new pieces this year.



Watch out below!

Pirate re-enactor Joseph Holz shows his form as he participates in the National Walk the Plank Championship in Key West, Fla. Challengers were judged on their pleas, pirate garb, plank-walking style and splash.

The event was a featured activity of the annual Pirates in Paradise Festival.

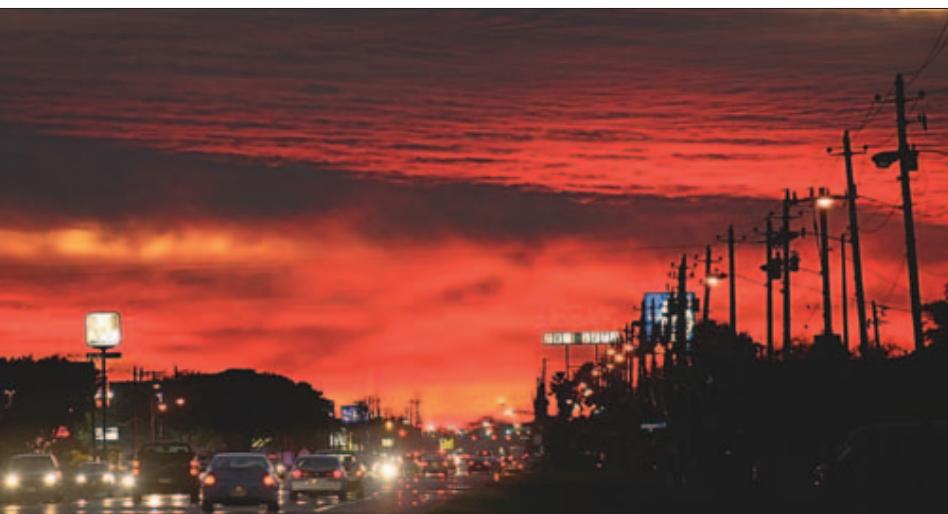


No escape hatch

Florence, Ky., firefighters Chris Bucher, left, and Audrey Owczarzak hold the side door of a Chevy Blazer open as the female driver stands trapped in her overturned vehicle on Dixie Highway just north of Turkeyfoot Road in Florence. Firefighters had to cut out the windshield of the SUV to free her.



**Fries, anyone?**  
Kid Chef finalists show off their gourmet burgers with celebrity judge and Food Network host Robin Miller during the fourth Annual Red Robin Kids' Cook-Off Championship in Denver. The youngsters could become culinary champs of the future.



Motorists on their way home are serenaded with a red skyline over Victoria, Texas.

## Longtime embezzler apologizes to family

**TX** AUSTIN — A woman who for a generation kept books for an Austin family apologized after being sentenced to a year in prison for embezzlement.

For more than 30 years, James Shipwash owned Austin Apartment Washer Service and treated bookkeeper Mary Henke Geiger, 69, of Salado, like family.

Problems arose in 2006 when Shipwash reviewed the books for the potential sale of the business. Prosecutors said Geiger, who had worked for the family since the 1970s, had been stealing from the company.

Geiger pleaded guilty in September to one count of bank fraud. Geiger acknowledged stealing \$1 million from the company from 1998 to mid-2006 by writing unauthorized checks to herself, relatives and others associated with her.

## Search party locates wreck of missing plane

**WV** MORGANTOWN —

Civil Air Patrol teams found a small plane that vanished during a flight from Texas to Virginia, and the pilot's body was amid the wreckage about five miles north of a navigational transmitter in Rainelle.

Three reconnaissance planes had searched the mountainous, densely wooded area near Quinwood and Rainelle in Greenbrier County, along West Virginia's southeastern border, said Maj. Jeffery Schrock, a spokesman for the air patrol.

A squadron from Clarksburg spotted debris about 9:40 a.m., said Maj. Jeffery Schrock, an air patrol spokesman. They confirmed it was the missing plane about 1:30 p.m.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford said Kwan Kwok of Virginia was reported missing by his sister, who said Kwok had recently bought the aircraft in Dalhart, Texas, to fly back to his home state.

## Police issue warrants for teens in murder case

**CA** HEMET — Police have

issued a murder arrest warrant for one of two missing Southern California teens and believe charred human remains found in his backyard belong to the other youth.

Hemet police Capt. Tony Margis said police are seeking Jose Campos and have arrested his parents, Jose and Maria Seym.

Police also issued arrest warrants for Campos' girlfriend, Felicia Sharp, 17, and a man named Rene Lopez Fregozo, 21.

Police believe charred remains found in a firepit behind Campos' house are those of Adrian Rios, 17, and that he was shot before being burned.

Margis said police have not determined a motive or recovered a murder weapon.

## Texas A&M fetes foray into nature of universe

**TX** COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M is into studying the nature of the universe.

Dedication ceremonies were planned for two new physics buildings on the campus in College Station.

Former A&M president Robert Gates, who is now defense secretary, in 2002 led the plan called Vision 2020 to raise the school's academic reputation.

A relationship with famed scientist Stephen Hawking helped put Texas A&M on the map in cosmology, the study of the fundamental nature of the universe.

Billionaire oilman George Mitchell, who developed The Woodlands, has funded nine chairs and professorships in physics and astronomy at his alma mater.

## Six Flags, stockholders at odds over restructure

**DE** WILMINGTON —

Theme park operator Six Flags Inc. and a group of its noteholders are fighting over the company's Chapter 11 reorganization plan.

A Delaware bankruptcy judge opened a hearing on competing proposals to restructure the company, which is based in New York and operates 20 amusement parks in the U.S. and abroad.

Six Flags said it wanted to extend its exclusive rights to submit a plan, aimed at a debt-to-equity swap giving secured lenders virtually all of the reorganized company's common stock.

But holders of more than \$500 million in Six Flags notes said they have a better plan that would increase the recovery for creditors.

## No emergency bailout for student bus service

**HI** HONOLULU — The state

Board of Education has decided against asking state lawmakers for an emergency \$12 million appropriation for student transportation.

The decision means Hawaii's public school system could run out of money to pay for bus service by April.

Board members believe the Legislature wouldn't approve an emergency request in the face of more pressing state budget concerns.

Board chairman Garrett Toguchi said the Department of Education will have to make do with the \$56 million available this fiscal year for student transportation.

The board recently agreed to boost one-way bus fares from 35 cents to 75 cents in January.

## Customs confiscates cocaine-stuffed chicken

**VA** CHANTILLY — Customs inspectors at Dulles

International Airport said a man from Guatemala was detained after he tried to carry a cooked chicken stuffed with more than \$4,000 worth of cocaine.

Customs and Border Protection spokesman Steve Sapp said agents decided the fully cooked chicken that Wagner Mauricio Linares Aragon, 32, brought with him on a flight from El Salvador warranted closer inspection.

Inside the chicken's cavity they said they found two small, clear bags that contained about 2.3 ounces of powder cocaine.

Linares Aragon is being held awaiting trial on felony drug charges in Loudoun County.

# Horoscope

This is no time for frivolous drama — only meaningful, profound drama will do. The Leo moon gives a theatrical edge to the Mercury/Pluto conjunction. Our words have weight, resonance and intention. If unsure of what to say, it's always an option not to speak at all. "The best way to keep one's word is not to give it." — Napoleon Bonaparte

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(Dec. 7).** You still don't know the limits of what you can do. This year you'll push what you thought was your personal best. Consistency, stamina and determination will be your trademarks. The responsibilities that befall you in January, if taken seriously, will be delightful and lucrative. New resources open to you in June. Aries and Virgo people adore you.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Partnerships will work well, even if you do spend a lot of time joking around. You will be the whipped cream and sprinkles to another person's hot chocolate. The fanciful element you bring is essential to the relationship's success.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You will be extremely determined to finish a project so that you can finally move on. Once you set your mind to something, it would take an army to stop you, and perhaps even then you would be the victor.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your mind will be even sharper than usual. You will process an impressive amount of information in a short span of time. Higher-ups turn to you to head up the most important tasks on the agenda.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Epic journeys are made of thousands of regular-sized steps. The first few are the hardest. Take those today. Get them out of the way while you're feeling tough.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You are flying high. Nothing outside has changed, but the air smells fresher

## Holiday Mathis



and your mind feels clean and ready. It's like an adrenaline rush after a long run, only without the sore knees.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** For you, the beauty isn't just skin deep. When people get to know you, they start to discover that the inside is even prettier than the shiny outside. Your heart is what makes you so remarkable.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Chief among your talents is an ability to facilitate harmony between people who wouldn't otherwise see eye to eye. You are a natural peacemaker, and the friends you make today you will have for a lifetime.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Your basically rebellious nature manifests itself in very acceptable ways. You may poke fun at convention, but you're not out to hurt anyone. Your individuality will positively impact your workplace.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Despite your expectations about some of the more daunting tasks on your list, today is turning out to be a pretty great day. Stick to your plan. Unforeseen good news will interrupt it just enough to make you laugh.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You may feel a tad fragile, and it benefits you to touch base with your humanity. Hug it out. Whether you're giving a hug or getting one, the human comfort exchanged feels equally healing.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Doubting your choices is a waste of energy. It benefits you to believe that you are where you should be and that your path is right for you. Be productive with your downtime. Exercise or read.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your charm is famous, your witty remarks are repeated in your absence, and your kindness makes a friend of everyone you meet. In short, you are loved because you love.

creators.com

# SUDOKU

8	9							7
4		6	7	8	1			
7	5							
5	6		3					1
3		8	9	2				
				4	6			
8		4	2					3
7	5	1						4
2		9	3					

### Difficulty: Very Easy

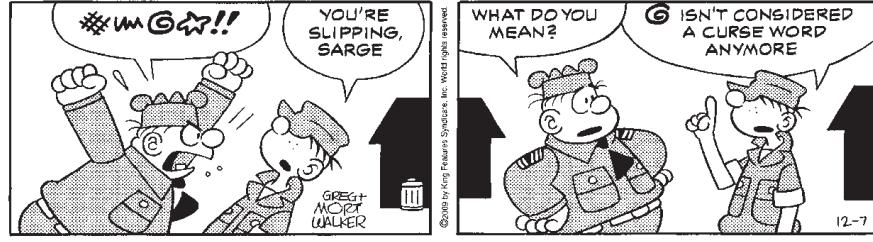
Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

### Yesterday's solution

8	6	2	3	4	9	1	7
3	1	7	2	8	4	6	5
7	4	5	6	1	9	8	2
4	7	9	8	3	2	1	6
2	8	3	1	4	6	5	7
1	5	6	9	8	7	3	4
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6	1	7	4	9	3	2	5
5	9	8	2	0	1	7	6

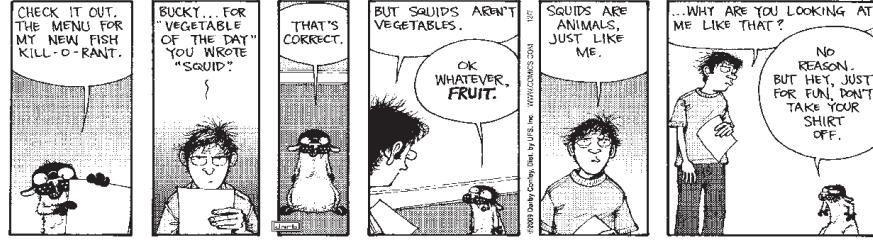
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**Beetle Bailey**



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**Get Fuzzy**



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**Candorville**



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**Meaning of Lila**



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**Knight Life**



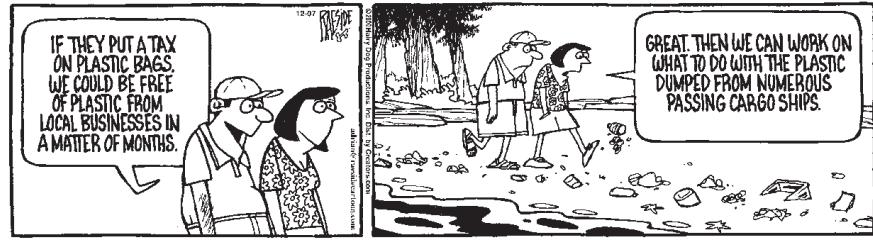
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**Baldo**



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**Other Coast**



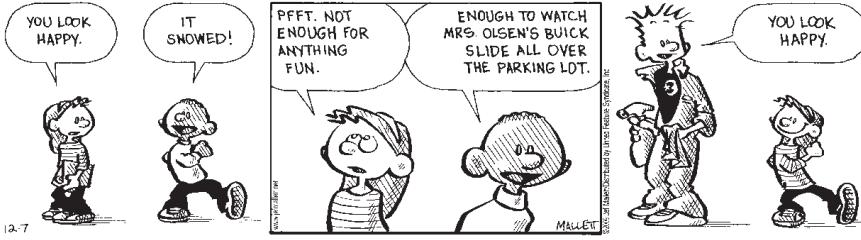
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**Dilbert**



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Frazz



Garfield



Baby Blues



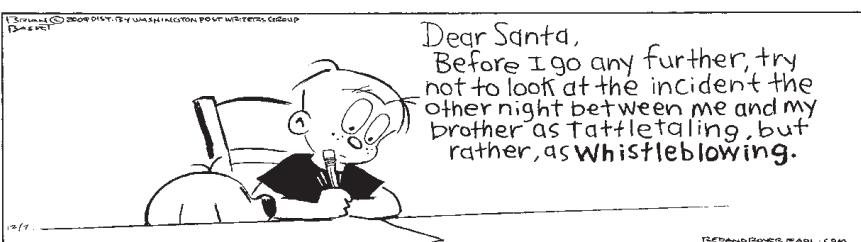
Jump Start



Zits



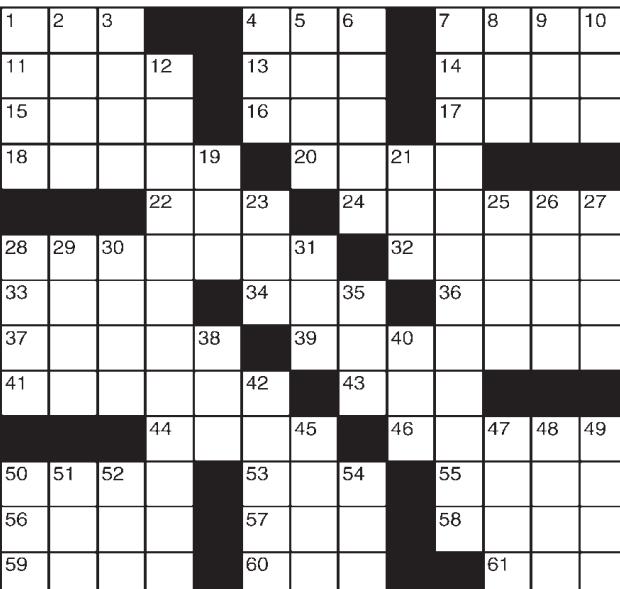
Red &amp; Rover



Hagar



Better or Worse

**Eugene Sheffer Crossword****ACROSS****DOWN**

literature

- 1 Airborne Dracula  
4 Group of scenes  
7 Antitoxins  
11 Styptic agent  
13 Comment from Bossy  
14 Eastern bigwig  
15 Actress Spelling  
16 Pea holder  
17 Rubik's puzzle  
18 Carrot-top's secret?  
20 Unaccompanied  
22 Work with  
24 Addled by age  
28 Black leopard  
32 Calculating snake?  
33 Reed instrument  
34 Japanese pond carp  
36 Family  
37 Richly luxurious  
39 Annoys  
41 Guard  
43 Gun lobby grp.  
44 Jacob's twin  
46 Spouse's relative  
50 Old Italian money  
53 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)  
55 Mrs. Dithers, in the comics  
56 Out of control  
57 Leap  
58 Badder than bad  
59 Makes up one's mind  
60 Explosive stick  
61 Antlered animal

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

C	U	R	D	S	B	A	S	R	A
O	R	N	E	R	O	S	I	E	R
P	A	R	S	O	P	E	R	S	O
E	V	E	P	O	P	P	A	H	E
R	E	A	M	D	I	E	V	I	S
A	D	L	I	B	T	R	O	O	P
T	H	I	N	A	I	R	C	L	O
R	A	M	S	P	O	T	A	F	R
A	L	P	D	E	C	A	F	F	I
P	O	I	S	O	N	P	R	I	S
S	E	S	A	M	E	E	A	T	E
S	H	Y	E	R		R	U	S	T

12-7

**CRYPTOQUIP**

X F L S A U F I A O T S O R C S U

I B H Q S U Z B K H F U D I O S K F

X A Z H M Z B K T I O T I M M F O , Q I A

R Z K C D L S H H Z D S U I H I U Z H I .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THOUGH THE DRIVER COULD VEER TO AVOID THAT INSIGNIFICANT POTHOLE, IT WOULD SWERVE NO PURPOSE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

# Office is split on bathroom sharing

**Dear Abby:** I'm writing about the letter you printed from "Right or Wrong in Wisconsin" (Nov. 9). My co-workers and I had a field day with the issue of the father shaving while his 12-year-old daughter takes her morning shower.

The women here were pretty much unanimous in agreeing with your response, while the men mostly thought there was nothing wrong. As a man writing to you, my opinion may seem a little biased, but please try to keep an open mind.

I assume that this gentleman has raised his daughter since birth, and that he changed "Lia's" diapers and bathed her when she was younger. It's ridiculous that at the young age of 12 it is suddenly inappropriate for her father to have a conversation with her (presumably) through a shower

**Dear Abby**



from my perspective. "Right or Wrong" appears to be a caring father, or he wouldn't have written me. He views his daughter as his "little girl." But at age 12, Lia is an emerging young woman both physically and emotionally. She is in transition, and her father

curtain.

I could understand the mother (whom he never referred to as his wife) being concerned if he was simply in the bathroom to dish about the day's issues. But that wasn't the case. He was shaving. We don't see a problem with that.

— Disagrees in Topeka, Kan.

Dear Disagrees: I did not mean to start a war of the sexes in your workplace, so allow me to clarify the issue

may not recognize that fact. At 12, many girls start their periods and their breasts begin developing. Lia's mother may have noticed these changes in her daughter.

What this presents is a teachable moment — and an opportunity for a family discussion to talk about what's happening. Among the issues Lia will face in the next few years are decisions she'll have to make about drinking, drugs, sex, respect and modesty. While other cultures have a more liberal view regarding modesty, ours is less so.

And remember, it's not as though sharing the bathroom in that family is a necessity.

There are two bathrooms in that house, and I think it's time one of them began using the one downstairs. If that makes me a fuddy-duddy, so be it. It's still my opinion.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POSOW

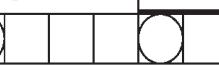


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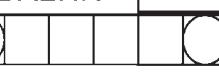
GUBYL



TORBED



BALTIR



THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



WHAT THE FARM FAMILY ENDED UP WITH DURING THE DROUGHT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

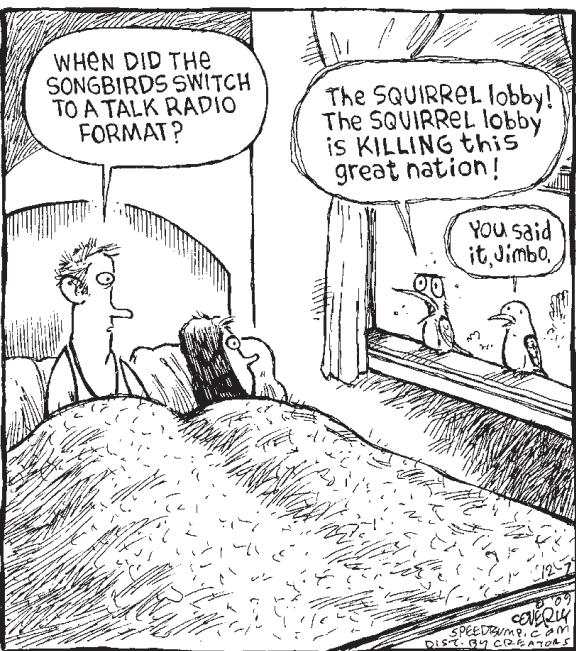


(Answers tomorrow)

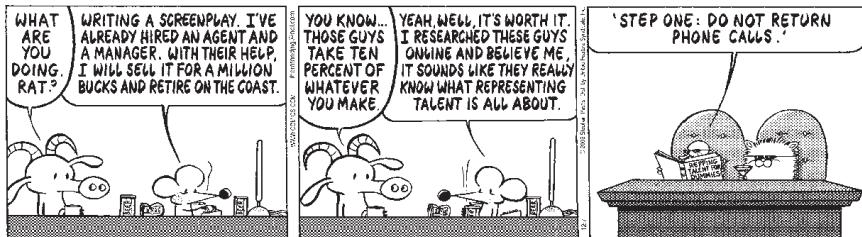
Saturday's

Jumbles: GUISE FEVER EMPIRE INWARD  
Answer: What happened when the astronauts began working — THEY WERE FIRED

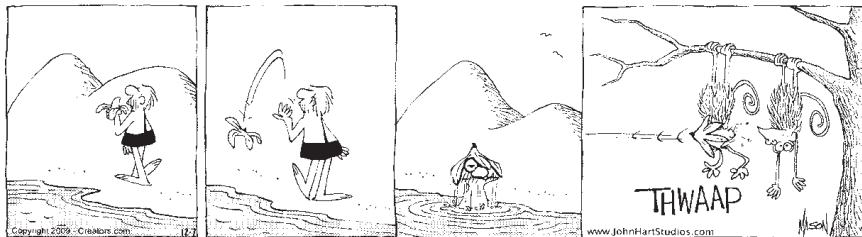
## Speed Bump



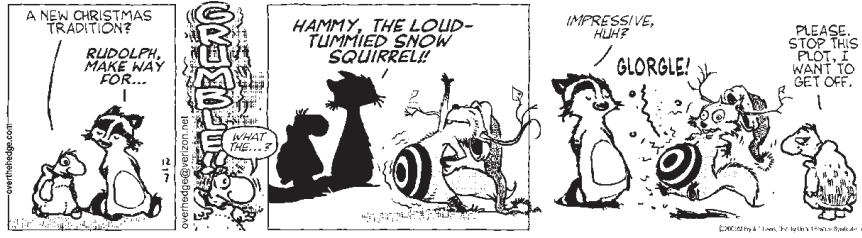
## Pearls Before Swine



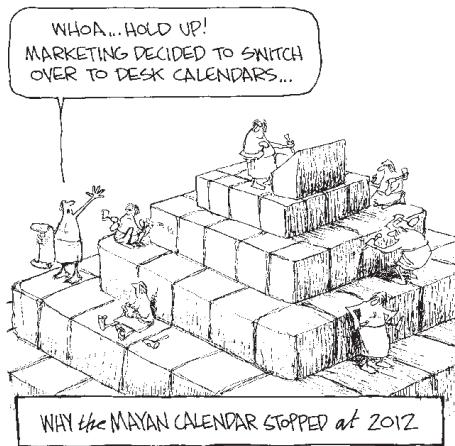
## B.C.



## Pardon My Planet Over The Hedge



## Non Sequitur



## Strange Brew



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- Please spell out each word. No abbreviations.
- Item prices must be listed.
- Free ads are available for private parties only. For information on commercial or in-home business ads, please call 229-3276.
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### Announcements

040



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### Autos for Sale 141

Atsugi - 2006 JEEP LIBERTY for sale low price \$10,800. Only has 8,300 miles and is outstanding condition. JCI and Base inspection good until 1 Oct 2011. Must sell by 1 Dec. Call them at 080-6712-7230

Atsugi - 199 Nissian Skyline 25GT (ER43) 90k km; all NEW sports muffler, air filter, shocks, antrill bar. New oil, filters, AT fluid, brake pad/stift, JC1 inspection til Dec2010. Asking \$500USD. Available NOW. Call them at 080-6712-7230

Yokosuka - 1999 Chevrolet Silverado LT 1500 stepside Z71, 4x4, US Spec, 5.3 Vortec V-8, 44xx miles, Black, grey leather, interior, PL, PW, CC, AM/FM, power windows, locks, remote locks, Budnik aluminum wheels, HKS tires, 650cc engine, 4WD, etc. MUST SELL. VERY fast and has only 43K km. \$9500. Call 080-4191-1287 or e-mail [psychmajor87@yahoo.com](mailto:psychmajor87@yahoo.com)

Yokosuka - '95 Nissan Skyline for sale, HIGHLY modified with GT-R everything except AWD. Upgrades include GT-R engine, tuned ECU, HKS coil covers, HKS turbos, swi, boost, 650cc engine, 4WD, etc. MUST SELL. VERY fast and has only 43K km. \$9500. Call 080-4191-1287 or e-mail [psychmajor87@yahoo.com](mailto:psychmajor87@yahoo.com)

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# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFN

### Sunday

**AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**—College football: Cincinnati at Pittsburgh (dld).  
**AFN-Xtra, 5 p.m.**—College football: South Florida at Connecticut (dld).  
**AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m.**—Boxing: Paul Williams vs. Sergio Martinez, junior middle-weights (dld).  
**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.**—College football: Southeastern Conference championship, Florida vs. Alabama (dld).  
**AFN-Xtra, 11:30 p.m.**—College basketball: North Carolina at Kentucky (dld).

### Monday

**AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.**—NFL: New England at Miami.  
**AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.**—NFL: Tennessee at Indianapolis.  
**AFN-Xtra, 3 a.m.**—NFL: Philadelphia at Atlanta.  
**AFN-Atlantic, 6 a.m.**—NFL: San Diego at Cleveland.  
**AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.**—NFL: Dallas at N.Y. Giants.  
**AFN-Xtra, 6 a.m.**—NFL: San Francisco at Seattle.  
**AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.**—NHL: Detroit at N.Y. Rangers.  
**AFN-Xtra, 10 a.m.**—College football: Bowl Championship Series Selection Show.

**AFN-Sports, 10:15 a.m.**—NFL: Minnesota at Arizona.  
**AFN-Xtra, 11:30 a.m.**—NBA: Phoenix at L.A. Lakers.  
**AFN-Xtra, 2 p.m.**—Women's soccer: NCAA tournament championship, Stanford vs. North Carolina (dld).  
**AFN-Xtra, 4 p.m.**—NFL: Houston at Jacksonville (dld).  
**AFN-Sports, 5:30 p.m.**—Golf: PGA Chevron World Challenge, final round (dld).  
**AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.**—College basketball: Kansas at UCLA (dld).  
**AFN-Xtra, midnight**—NFL: Oakland at Pittsburgh (dld).

### Tuesday

**AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.**—NFL: Minnesota at Arizona (dld).  
**AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.**—NHL: New Jersey at Buffalo.  
**AFN-Sports, 10:30 a.m.**—NFL: Baltimore at Green Bay.  
**AFN-Xtra, 12:30 p.m.**—NHL: Calgary at Los Angeles.  
**AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**—NBA: Denver at Philadelphia (dld).  
**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.**—NFL: Baltimore at Green Bay (dld).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.myafn.net](http://www.myafn.net) for more information.

## Golf

### Chevron World Challenge

Friday  
At Sherwood Country Club  
Thousands Oaks, Calif.  
Yardage: 7,027 yards; Par: 72  
Purse: \$5.75 million  
Second Round

Y.E. Yang	70-65-135 -9
Kenny Perry	72-65-137 -7
Ian Poulter	68-69-137 -7
Padraig Harrington	69-68-137 -7
Sean O'Hair	71-67-138 -6
Lee Westwood	71-67-138 -6
Zach Johnson	68-70-138 -6
Graeme McDowell	71-69-140 -4
Lucas Glover	74-67-141 -3
Jim Furyk	70-71-141 -3
Camilo Villegas	73-69-142 -2
Mike Weir	73-70-143 -1
Stewart Cink	70-73-143 -1
Paul Casey	75-69-144 -1
Martin Kaymer	73-72-145 +1
Anthony Kim	71-74-145 +1
Steve Stricker	71-74-145 +1
Justin Leonard	72-74-146 +2

### Nedbank Challenge

Saturday  
At Gary Player Country Club  
Sun City, South Africa  
Purse: \$4,385 million  
Yardage: 7,590; Par: 72  
Third Round

Retief Goosen, South Africa	69-68-67-204
Robert Allenby, Australia	68-70-68-206
Angel Cabrera, Argentina	71-67-68-206
Ross Fisher, England	72-69-66-209
Henrik Stenson, Sweden	70-68-70-208
Tim Clark, South Africa	69-72-68-209
Nick Watney, United States	73-73-63-209
Luke Donald, England	72-71-68-211
Robert Karlsson, Sweden	70-72-68-213
Hunter Mahan, United States	70-71-72-213
Richard Sterne, South Africa	72-75-70-217

### Australian Open

Saturday  
At New South Wales Golf Club  
Sydney  
Purse: \$1.36 million  
Yardage: 6,921; Par: 72  
Third Round  
a-amateur

Adam Scott, Australia	68-66-67-201
Stuart Appleby, Australia	66-66-71-203
Nick O'Hern, Australia	69-68-71-208
Jamies Nitties, Australia	67-72-70-209
Scott Strange, Australia	72-70-68-210
David Oh, United States	68-73-69-210
Richard Green, Australia	73-71-67-211
Jarrod Lyle, Australia	69-68-74-211

## College football

### Friday's score

**MIDWEST**  
Central Michigan 20, Ohio 10

### FCS playoffs

**Quarterfinals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 5**  
William & Mary 24, Southern Illinois 3  
Stephen F. Austin (10-2) at Montana (12-0)  
New Hampshire (10-2) at Villanova (11-1)  
Appalachian State (10-2) at Richmond (11-1)

### Semifinals

**Dec. 11-12**  
Stephen F. Austin/Montana vs. Appalachian State/Richmond  
New Hampshire/Villanova vs. William & Mary (11-2)

### Championship

**Friday, Dec. 18**  
At Finley Stadium/Davenport Field  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Semifinal winners

### NCAA Division II playoffs

**Quarterfinals**  
**Saturday, Nov. 28**  
California, Pa. 57, West Liberty 35  
Grand Valley State 24, Minnesota-Duluth 10  
Carson-Newman 24, North Alabama 21

Northwest Missouri State 21, Central Washington 20

### Semifinals

**Saturday, Dec. 5**  
Grand Valley State (12-1) vs. Carson-Newman (11-2)  
California, Pa. (11-3) vs. Northwest Missouri State (12-1)

### Championship

**Saturday, Dec. 12**  
At Braly Municipal Stadium  
Florence, Ala.  
Semifinal winners

### NCAA Division III playoffs

**Quarterfinals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 5**  
Mount Union 55, Albright 3  
Wesley 12, Johns Hopkins 0  
Wisconsin-Whitewater 31, Wittenberg 13

St. Thomas, Minn. (11-1) at Linfield (12-0)

### Semifinals

**Saturday, Dec. 12**  
Mount Union (13-0) vs. Wesley (13-0)  
Wisconsin-Whitewater (13-0) vs. St. Thomas, Minn./Linfield

### Championship

**Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl**  
**Saturday, Dec. 19**  
At Salem Stadium  
Salem, Va.  
Semifinal winners

### NAIA playoffs

**Semifinals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 5**  
Lindenwood (12-0) at Carroll, Mont. (13-0)

Saint Xavier (13-0) at Sioux Falls (13-0)

### Championship

**Saturday, Dec. 19**  
At Barron Stadium  
Rome, Ga.  
St. Xavier/Sioux Falls vs. Lindenwood/Carroll, Mont.

### Davis Cup

**WORLD GROUP**  
**Final**  
At Palau Sant Jordi  
Barcelona, Spain  
Surface: Clay-Indoor  
Spain 3, Czech Republic 0

Rafael Nadal, Spain, def. Tomas Berdych, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-0, 6-2.  
David Ferrer, Spain, def. Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, 1-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-8.

### Doubles

Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco, Spain, def. Radek Stepanek and Tomas Berdych, Czech Republic, 7-6 (7), 7-5, 6-2.

### TENNIS

### TANK McNAMARA



## College hockey

### Friday's scores

**EAST**  
Ala.-Huntsville 2, Robert Morris 2, OT  
Army 2, Sacred Heart 1  
Bentley 5, Canisius 4  
Boston College 3, Massachusetts 1  
Brown 3, Princeton 1  
Cornell 2, RPI 1  
Clarkson 3, St. Lawrence 3, OT  
Merrimack 3, Northeastern 1  
Mercyhurst 5, Connecticut 0  
New Hampshire 2, Mass.-Lowell 1  
Maine 3, Providence 1  
Rochester Tech 1, Holy Cross 1, OT  
Union, N.Y. 3, Colgate 1  
Vermont 3, Boston U. 3, OT  
Yale 7, Quinnipiac 4

### MIDWEST

Bemidji St. 8, Niagara 2  
Ferris St. 2, Nebraska-Omaha 0  
Lake Superior 2, Bowling Green 1  
Miami (Ohio) 1, Notre Dame 0  
Michigan St. 1, N. Michigan 0  
Minn. St., Mankato 3, Minnesota 1  
North Dakota 4, Minn. Duluth 2  
Ohio St. 3, Michigan 3

Wis. Michigan 3, Alaska-Fairbanks 1  
Wisconsin 8, Michigan Tech 2

### FAR WEST

Air Force 3, American International 3  
Denver 2, Colorado College 1

## Deals

### Friday's transactions

#### BASEBALL

**MLB**—Suspended St. Louis Cardinals' Jefferson Segundo, Florida Marlins' Joel Tamaras, Arizona Diamondbacks' Daniel Vasquez and free agent Matt Tupman 50 games after each violated the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

#### American League

**BOSTON RED SOX**—Agreed to terms with SS Marco Scutaro on a two-year contract.

**TEXAS RANGERS**—Claimed INF Joe Inglett off waivers from Toronto.

#### National League

**ATLANTA BRAVES**—Named Garey Ingram hitting coach for Mississippi (SL) and Kent Willis pitching coach for Myrtle Beach (Carolina).

**MILWAUKEE BREWERS**—Agreed to terms with C Gregg Zaun on a one-year contract. Signed Of Trent Oeltjen to a minor-league contract.

**NEW YORK METS**—Named Wayne Krivsky special assistant to general manager.

**SAN DIEGO PADRES**—Named Jason McLeod vice president/assistant general manager.

#### BASKETBALL

##### National Basketball Association

**NBA**—Suspended Milwaukee coach Scott Skiles one game for his actions directed at a game official and for not leaving the court in a timely manner following his ejection in a Dec. 2 game against Washington.

#### FOOTBALL

##### National Football League

**NFL**—Fined New York Jets S Kerry Rhodes \$5,000 by the NFL for throwing a ball into the stands following an interception in a Nov. 29 game against Carolina.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS**—Placed DT Tank Tyler on injured reserve. Claimed DT Derek Landri off waivers from Jacksonville.

**NEW YORK GIANTS**—Signed TE Bear Pascoe from their practice squad.

#### HOCKEY

##### National Hockey League

**ANAHEIM DUCKS**—Recalled F Dan Sexton from Manitoba (AHL).

**FLORIDA PANTHERS**—Re-signed G Alexander Salak to the Rochester (AHL).

**NASHVILLE PREDATORS**—Recalled C Cal O'Reilly from Milwaukee (AHL). Re-signed F Mike Santorelli to Milwaukee.

**PHILADELPHIA FLYERS**—Fired coach John Stevens. Named Peter Laviolette coach.

**SAN JOSE SHARKS**—Reassigned F Ryan Vesce and D Derek Joslin to Worcester (AHL).

**TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING**—Recalled C Blair Jones from Norfolk (AHL).

#### COLLEGE

**GEORGIA**—Fired Willie Martinez, defensive coordinator, Jon Fabris, defensive ends coach, and John Jancek, linebackers coach.

**MADONNA**—Announced the resignation of Tino Sciluna, men's soccer coach.

### College soccer

### Men's Division I tournament

#### Quarterfinals

**Friday, Dec. 4**

North Carolina 5, Wake Forest 2

Virginia 3, Maryland 0

**Saturday, Dec. 5**

Tulsa at Akron

UCLA at Wake Forest

#### Semifinals

**Friday, Dec. 11**

At Cary, N.C.

North Carolina vs. Tulsa/Akron

Virginia vs. UCLA/Wake Forest

#### Championship

**Sunday, Dec. 13**

At Cary, N.C.

Semifinal winners

### Women's Division I tournament

#### Quarterfinals

**Friday, Nov. 27**

North Carolina 5, Wake Forest 2

Notre Dame 0, Florida State 0

Stanford 3, Boston College 1

**Saturday, Nov. 28**

UCLA 2, Portland 1

**Semifinals**

**Friday, Dec. 4**

At College Station, Texas

Stanford 2, UCLA 1, OT

North Carolina 1, Notre Dame 0

**Championship**

**Sunday, Dec. 6**

At College Station, Texas

Stanford vs. North Carolina

## College basketball

### Friday's men's scores

#### EAST

Binghamton 64, Bucknell 60  
Canisius 70, Loyola, Md. 65

Cortland St. 77, Geneseo St. 56

Navy 73, Penn 67

Niagara 88, Manhattan 64

Pittsburgh 47, New Hampshire 32

St. Peter's 56, Iona 54

Walsh 154, Mansfield 59

York, N.Y. 95, Wells 92

#### SOUTH

DePaul 86, Rhodes 64

Florida 85, Jacksonville 67

Life 85, Georgetown, Ky. 83

Mountain St. 100, Daemen 57

Reinhardt 49, Pensacola Christian 80

Troy 81, Auburn 77

UAB 74, ETSU 52

UNC Asheville 58, Gardner-Webb 56

WVU Tech 86, Cumberlands 82

Xavier, NO 69, Philander Smith 60

#### MIDWEST

Alma 71, Michigan-Dearborn 68

Calvin 72, Carthage 69

Evansville 61, Alabama 57

Hope 77, Wheaton, Ill. 52

Mary 63, Augustana, S.D. 49

Michigan 77, Carroll 60

Minnesota St. 77, Moorhead 73

Minn. Morris 88, Bettina Luther 56

Minn. St. 92, Valley City St. 67

Northwestern, Minn., 87, St. Scholastica 82

#### SOUTHWEST

Cent. Arkansas 69, Cal St.-Fullerton 49

Stephen F. Austin 79, Southern U. 52

Texas A&M 74, Akron 62

Texas A&M 74, Akron 62

Texas St. 71, Arizona 54

Montana St. 87, N. Colorado 63

Montana St. 87, Billings 82, Dominican, Calif. 54

Montana St. Northern 63, Great Falls 50

Oregon St. 74, Colorado 69

UC Riverside 58, San Diego 55

Westminster, Utah 82, St. Thomas, Fla. 67

#### TOURNAMENTS

**SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 24****Pro football****NFL injury report**

**NEW YORK** — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT = Definitely will not play; DNP = Did not practice; LIMITED = Limited participation in practice; FULL = Full participation in practice):

**SUNDAY**

**ST. LOUIS RAMS at CHICAGO BEARS** — **RAMS:** OUT: QB Marc Bulger (knee), RB Mike Karney (neck), T Jason Smith (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE:** RB Steven Jackson (back). **PROBABLE:** C Jason Brown (knee), G Richie Incognito (foot), LB James Laurinaitis (shoulder). **BEARS:** DOUBTFUL: LB Lance Briggs (knee), T Orlando Pace (groin). **QUESTIONABLE:** TE Desmond Clark (neck), DT Tommie Harris (knee), CB Charles Tillman (concussion). **PROBABLE:** DE Alex Brown (calf).

**TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS at CAROLINA PANTHERS — BUCCANEERS:** OUT:

DE Michael Bennett (toe), WR Michael Clayton (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** DT Roy Miller (ankle), RB Clinton Smith (knee), CB Ajib Talib (hamstring). **PROBABLE:** T Donald Penn (knee), WR Maurice Stovall (thigh), DE Styles G White (hand), TE Kellen Winslow (knee). **PANTHERS:** OUT: QB Jake Delhomme (right finger), DT Tank Tyler (knee). **DOUBTFUL:** WR Dwayne Jarrett (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** DE Charles Johnson (pectoral), CB Captain Munnelly (concussion). **PROBABLE:** RB DeAngelo Williams (ankle). **DOUBTFUL:** G Mackenzy Bernadou (knee), LB Na'vi Diggs (rib), RB Brad Hoover (ankle), WR Muhsin Muhammad (knee), RB Jonathan Stewart (Achilles).

**HOUSTON TEXANS at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — TEXANS:** OUT: CB Glover Quin (head). **QUESTIONABLE:** T Duane Brown (knee). **PROBABLE:** LB Xavier Adibi (illness), LB Brian Cushing (foot), LB Zac Diles (illness), LB DeMeco Ryans (ankle), RB Steve Slaton (neck). **JAGUARS:** OUT: G Kynan Forney (back), CB Rashean Mathis (groin). **QUESTIONABLE:** S Sean Considine (head). **DOUBTFUL:** DE Julius Williams (knee). **PROBABLE:** LB Justin Durant (head), RB Maurice Jones-Drew (knee), WR Mike Sims-Walker (knee), CB Brian Wither-spoon (ankle).

**DENVER BRONCOS at KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — BRONCOS:** PROBABLE: T Ryan Harris (toe), RB LaMont Jordan (back), QB Kyle Orton (ankle), WR Eddie Royal (thigh), LB Wesley Woodyard (neck). **CHIEFS:** OUT: RB Randal Smith (ankle). **DOUBTFUL:** RB Dantrell Savage (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** G Andy Altehman (knee), LB Justin Rogers (thigh), LB Mike Vrabel (knee). **PROBABLE:** LB David Herren (knee), S DaJuan Johnson (knee).

**TEXAS/TENNESSEE at INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — TITANS:** OUT: DT Jason Jones (shoulder). **DOUBTFUL:** LB Colin Allred (hamstring). **QUESTIONABLE:** DE Jacob Ford (abdomen), WR Justin Gage (back), S Michael Griffin (shoulder), DT Sen'Derrick Marks (ankle). **COLTS:** OUT: RB Donald Brown (chest), DE Keyunta Dawson (knee), S Aaron Francisco (ankle), WR Anthony Gonzalez (knee), K Adam Vinatieri (right knee). **QUESTION-ABLE:** DE Dwight Freeney (abdomen), T Charlie Johnson (foot), QB Jim Sorgi (right shoulder). **PROBABLE:** RB Joseph Addai (knee), LB Gary Brackett (foot), G Kyle Devan (shin), CB Kelvin Hayden (knee), LB Ramon Humber (calf), CB Tim Jennings (ankle), QB Peyton Manning (glute), DE Robert Mathis (neck), CB Jerryad Powers (knee), G Jamey Richard (shoulder), TE Tom Santi (hand), C Jeff Saturday (calf), T Tony Ugo (knee), WR Reggie Wayne (foot).

**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES at ATLANTA FALCONS — EAGLES:** OUT: WR Kevin Curtis (knee), WR DeSean Jackson (concussion), LB Akeem Jordan (knee), RB Brian Westbrook (concussion). **PROBABLE:** DE Victor Abiamua (knee), WR Jason Avant (hamstring), DB Brodrick Bush (knee), TE Brian Celek (thumb), C Nick Cole (knee), S Quintin Demps (ankle), G Todd Herremans (shoulder), WR Jeremy Maclin (foot), DT Mike Patterson (wrist, toe), CB Asante Samuel (neck). **FALCONS:** OUT: QB Matt Ryan (toe). **QUESTIONABLE:** T Sam Baker (elbow), G Harvey Dahl (ankle), WR Brian Finneran (knee), LB Tony Gilbert (hamstring), WR Michael Jenkins (ankle), RB Michael Turner (ankle), WR Roddy White (knee). **PROBABLE:** LB Curtis Lofton (knee, groin).

**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS at WASHING-TON REDSKINS — SAINTS:** OUT: WR Lance Moore (ankle, hamstring), CB Tracy Porter (knee), DOUBTFUL: T Jérôme Bushrod (thumb), G Jahri Evans (toe), CB Randall Gay (hamstring), LB Marvin Mitchell (hamstring). **QUESTIONABLE:** RB Reggie Bush (knee), CB Jabari Greer (groin), DE Bobby McCray (back, knee). **PROBABLE:** RB Mike Bell (knee, back), LB Jo-Lonn Dunbar (wrist), LB Scott Fujita (knee), C Jonathan Goodwin (ankle), RB Lynell Hamilton (shoulder), CB Chris McAlister (knee), TE Jeremy Shockey (elbow), RB Pierre Thomas (wrist), LB Jonathan Vilma (knee). **REDSKINS:** OUT: RB Clinton Portis (concussion). **DOUBTFUL:** CB DeAngelo Hall (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** DE Albert Haynesworth (ankle), CB Justin Tryon (hip). **PROBABLE:** RB Mike Sellers (ankle).

**OAKLAND RAIDERS at PITTSBURGH STEELERS — RAIDERS:** OUT: WR Nick Miller (shin). **DOUBTFUL:** DE Greg Ellis (knee). **PROBABLE:** LB Isaiah Ekejueba (knee), RB Justin Fargas (neck), LB David Nixon (illness). **STEELERS:** OUT: QB Charlie Batch (left wrist), S Troy Kirschke (calf). **DOUBTFUL:** DE Travis Kirschke (calf). **PROBABLE:** G Chris Kemoeatu (knee), QB Ben Roethlisberger (head).

**DETROIT LIONS at CINCINNATI BEN-GALS — LIONS:** OUT: WR Eric Fowler (knee), S Kalvin Pearson (hamstring). **QUESTIONABLE:** S Louis Delmas (ankle), T Daniel Loper (back), LB Ernie Sims (ham-

string), DE Dewayne White (toe). **PROBABLE:** DT Andre Fluellen (toes), LB Zack Follett (neck), DT Grady Jackson (knee), WR Calvin Johnson (knee), QB Matthew Stafford (left shoulder). **BENGALS:** DOUBTFUL: C Jonathan Luigs (back), DT Domata Peko (knee), RB Bernard Scott (toe). **PROBABLE:** RB Cedric Benson (hip), WR Laveranues Coles (chest), S Kyries Hebert (hip), DT Tank Johnson (knee), LB Rey Maualuga (foot), S Tom Nelson (foot), LB Keith Rivers (foot), DE Frostee Rucker (neck), CB Morgan Trent (knee).

**SAN DIEGO CHARGERS at CLEVELAND BROWNS — CHARGERS:** OUT: S Eric Weddle (knee). **DOUBTFUL:** DE Luis Castillo (calf), C Nick Hardwick (ankle), LB Shawne Merriman (foot). **PROBABLE:** LB Kevin Burnett (head), RB Jacob Hester (knee), NT Travis Johnson (groin), DT Ogemi Nwagbu (ankle), LB Shaun Phillips (ankle), P Mike Scifres (groin), RB Mike Tolbert (not injury related). **BROWNS:** OUT: DE Kenyon Coleman (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** G Rex Hadnot (knee), RB Lawrence Vickers (hamstring), LB Kameron Wimbley (knee), CB Eric Wright (hamstring). **PROBABLE:** S Mike Adams (finger), WR Jake Allen (hip), LB David Bowens (knee), LB Blake Costanzo (shoulder), C Hank Fraley (elbow), RB Chris Jennings (shoulder), TE Robert Royal (high, finger).

**DALLAS COWBOYS at NEW YORK GIANTS — COWBOYS:** OUT: T Marc Colombo (ankle), S Ken Hamlin (ankle). **PROBABLE:** LB Victor Butler (knee), QB Tony Romo (back), S Gerald Sensabaugh (thumb), LB DeMarcus Ware (foot, wrist), TE Jason Witten (foot). **GIANTS:** OUT: RB Danny Ware (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE:** TE Travis Beckum (groin), RB Ahmad Bradshaw (ankle, foot), S Michael Johnson (groin). **PROBABLE:** LB Michael Boley (back), WR Derek Hagan (hamstring), QB Eli Manning (foot).

**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — 49ERS:** OUT: CB Nate Clements (shoulder). **DOUBTFUL:** DE Kenton Balmer (shoulder), T Joe Staley (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** WR Isaac Bruce (ankle), CB Marcus Hudson (back), LB Takeo Spikes (hamstring). **PROBABLE:** WR Arnez Battle (ankle), LB Ahmad Brooks (thumb), WR Brandon Jones (thumb), WR Michael Lewis (quadricep), DE Ray McDonald (shoulder), RB Michael Robinson (shoulder), T Adam Snyder (shoulder). **SEAHAWKS:** DOUBTFUL: LB D.D. Lewis (knee), DT Cory Redding (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE:** RB Justin Forsett (quadricep), DE Lawrence Jackson (groin). **PROBABLE:** RB Julius Jones (chest), C Chris Spencer (thumb).

**MINNESOTA VIKINGS at ARIZONA CARDINALS — VIKINGS:** QUESTIONABLE: G Anthony Herrera (concussion), TE Visanthe Shiancoe (ribs), RB Chester Taylor (ribs), CB Antoine Winfield (foot). **PROBABLE:** WR Bernard Berrian (hamstring), S Eric Frampton (concussion), G Steve Hutchinson (shoulder), T Bryant McKinnie (back), RB Adrian Peterson (ankle), CB Benny Sapp (thum, ribs), RB Naufahu Tahi (ankle). **CARDINALS:** OUT: LB Will Davis (knee). **DOUBTFUL:** T Mike Gandy (pelvis), TE Stephen Spach (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** LB Karlos Dansby (shoulder), RB Tim Hightower (thumb), DE Kerney Iwebema (thumb), CB Bryant McDadden (knee), K Neil Rackers (right groin), QB Kurt Warner (head).

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS at MIAMI DOLPHINS — PATRIOTS:** DOUBTFUL: S Bert Lockett (groin), RB Fred Taylor (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** LB Eric Alexander (groin), TE Chris Baker (shoulder), LB Tuylia Banta-Cain (shoulder), WR Julian Edelman (forearm), DE Jarvis Green (knee), T Nick Caszur (ankle), C Dan Koppen (knee), T Matt Light (knee), RB Sammy Morris (knee), G Stephen Neal (ankle), LB Rob Ninkovich (knee), T Sebastian Vollmer (head), DT Ty Warren (ankle), LB Pierre Woods (groin). **PROBABLE:** QB Tom Brady (right shoulder, finger), CB Shawn Springs (knee), TE Benjamin Watson (knee). **DOLPHINS:** DOUBTFUL: C Jake Grove (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** DE Lionel Dotson (ankle), LB Joey Porter (knee). **PROBABLE:** S Yeremiah Bell (thumb), RB Ricky Williams (chest).

**MONTDAY BALTIMORE RAVENS at GREEN BAY PACKERS — RAVENS:** DNP: CB K.J. Gerard (high), S Ed Reed (ankle, hip), TE L.J. Smith (ankle), LB Terrell Suggs (knee), WR Demetress Williams (illness). **LIMITED:** LB Prescott Burgess (high), LB Ray Lewis (foot), RB Le'Ron McClain (chest), CB Cary Williams (thigh). **FULL:** C Matt Birk (neck), QB Joe Flacco (ankle), T Jared Gaither (illness), LB Jarret Johnson (shoulder), NT Haloti Ngata (ankle), WR Kelley Washington (illness). **PACKERS:** OUT: LB Aaron Kampman (knee), DNP: G.T.J. Lang (concussion). **LIMITED:** T Chad Clifton (hamstring), RB Ryan Grant (shoulder), LB Jeremy Thompson (neck). **FULL:** G Allen Barbre (ankle), LB Brandon Chillar (hand), RB Ahman Green (groin), RB John Kuhn (hand), QB Aaron Rodgers (ribs), CB Charles Woodson (shoulder).

**NFL calendar**

Jan. 9-10, 2010 — Wild card playoffs.

Jan. 16-17 — Divisional playoffs.

Jan. 24 — Conference championships.

Jan. 31 — Pro Bowl, Miami.

Feb. 7 — Super Bowl, Miami.

Feb. 24-March 2 — NFL combine, Indianapolis.

March 5 — Free agency begins.

March 21-24 — Annual owners meeting, Orlando, Fla.

April 22-24 — NFL Draft.

**College basketball roundup**

# Looking for 2 grand

## Kentucky edges Carolina, closes on win No. 2,000

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — John Calipari's rebuilding project at Kentucky appears to be ahead of schedule.

Freshman star John Wall shook off a leg injury to finish with 16 points, including the clinching free throws with 4 seconds remaining, as the fifth-ranked Wildcats held off No. 10 North Carolina 68-66 on Saturday.

Patrick Patterson had 19 points and seven rebounds as Kentucky off a leg injury to finish with 16 points, including the clinching free throws with 4 seconds remaining, as the fifth-ranked Wildcats held off No. 10 North Carolina 68-66 on Saturday.

Kentucky has its best record since the 1992-93 team was 11-0.

Deon Thompson led North Carolina with 14 points and Will Graves 13 as the Tar Heels' second-half rally came up just short.

Wall and fellow freshman Eric Bledsoe made sure of it, making five of six free throws in the final 30 seconds after North Carolina had trimmed a 19-point deficit to two.

Bledsoe shook off a couple of late turnovers to knock down two foul shots. After Graves missed a three-pointer and the ball bounced out of bounds, Bledsoe made one of two free throws to put Kentucky ahead 66-61.

After a tip-in by Thompson pulled Carolina to 66-63, Wall finished his breakout performance by calmly sinking two free throws with 4.3 seconds left.

Graves hit a three-pointer at the buzzer, but by then the Wildcats were already celebrating the biggest victory in years.

Calipari said before the game he was anxious to see how the Wildcats responded after getting "punched in the mouth."

The answer proved to be easy: Get the ball into the hands of Wall, who dazzled NBA scouts in attendance with the kind of playmaking ability that will likely make him a lottery pick next spring if he chooses to leave. Wall finished with seven assists, five rebounds and a handful of spectacular plays.

It almost wasn't enough to hold off the defending national champions. North Carolina trailed by 15 at the break but slowly got back in it by slowing the tempo.

It helped that Wall was off the floor. He slowly walked to the locker room early in the second half with a leg injury, sending an uneasy buzz through the record crowd of 24,468 who packed Rupp Arena.

Wall missed seven long minutes, but Kentucky managed to retain the lead thanks to some shaky shooting by the Tar Heels. North Carolina was 39 percent from the floor and missed several bunnies in the lane during Wall's absence.

**No. 15 Ohio St. 111, E. Michigan 60:** An ugly fall by Ohio



ED REINKE/AP

**Kentucky coach John Calipari yells directions to his players during Saturday's game against North Carolina.**

State star Evan Turner overshadowed what otherwise was an easy afternoon for the Buckeyes. Turner, one of the nation's top all-around players who came in averaging 20.6 points and 12.9 rebounds, was fouled on a dunk attempt, held onto the rim too long and landed on his back out of bounds with the Buckeyes (7-1) leading 15-5 with 13:27 left in the first half.

After lying on the floor for a couple of minutes while being tended by medical personnel, Turner was helped up and gingerly walked to the locker room. He was taken to Ohio State Medical Center, where X-rays were negative.

Coach Thad Matta said Turner would undergo more intensive tests before leaving the hospital.

"At this point, I'm pretty optimistic everything's going to be OK," he said. "I haven't seen the fall yet, but we're obviously thinking about him and hoping that everything's going to be OK."

After Turner departed, the rest of the Buckeyes picked up

the slack for the player who leads them in points, rebounds and assists.

The Buckeyes scored at least 110 points for the second time in eight days, and the total against Eastern matched the ninth-most in program history.

Jon Diebler scored 21 points, P.J. Hill 18, Jeremie Simmons 17 and William Buford and David Lighty 16 each for the Buckeyes, who've won five straight since a loss to North Carolina.

In games of note Friday:

**Navy 73, Penn 67:** Jordan Sugars had 21 points, 12 rebounds and three steals to help host Navy deny Penn its first victory of the season.

The Midshipmen (4-4) led 32-29 at halftime, but Penn (0-5) tied it 36-36 with 15:36 left. Three-pointers by Greg Brown and Romeo Garcia put Navy up by six, but the Quakers used an 8-1 run for a 44-43 lead with 11:50 remaining.

Jeremy Wilson made a free throw to tie the score, then Mark Veazey's three-point play gave the Midshipmen the lead for good with 10:48 to go. The Quakers got no closer than three thereafter. Navy helped itself by hitting 18 of 23 free throws in the second half.

Chris Harris, who entered the game leading the Patriot League in scoring at 21.6 points per game, added 16 points for the Midshipmen.

Jack Eggleston and Zack Rosen scored 18 points apiece for Penn.

**Pittsburgh 47, New Hampshire 32:** Pitt's Ashton Gibbs compared it to a YMCA game. Brad Wanamaker couldn't recall a similar game since his 8-and-under league. New Hampshire coach Bill Herrion said it was like undergoing a root canal.

Whatever it was, it didn't resemble an NCAA Division I basketball game, especially during a record-setting first half in which Pitt shot terribly, New Hampshire shot even worse and scoreboard operator Jerry Ferber barely moved a finger.

Gibbs scored 23 points and Wanamaker added 19 as they combined for all but five of Pitt's points. Pittsburgh (7-1) held New Hampshire (2-3) to seven points during the lowest-scoring first half of the shot-clock era.

Pitt shot only 26 percent in the first half, but led 15-7 after holding New Hampshire to a mere 12 percent (3-for-25) performance in the first 20 minutes.

The 22 combined points were the fewest in a first half of a Division I game since the shot clock era began in 1985 — when there was a 45-second clock, rather than the 35-second clock adopted in 1993.

"Offensively, we turned the game back a few years," Herrion said. "We couldn't throw the ball in ... what river is close to here? The Monongahela? The Allegheny?"

## High school roundup

# Kinnick coach Wilson wins Edgren title in debut

Stars and Stripes

Five individual gold medals. The team title by a point over the tournament host. Not a bad day's work, and not a bad debut, for Nile C. Kinnick wrestling coach Gary Wilson.

Derek Youngblood (148), Chris Santos (180), David de los Santos (heavyweight), Elijah Gamble (135) and defending Far East champion Marcus Boehler (108) won their weight classes, and Kinnick rallied past host Robert D. Edgren for the title in DODEA Japan's first tournament of the season.

"I thought there was no chance" for Kinnick against Edgren, which also won five divisions and appeared in command, Wilson said.

It wasn't so much the gold-medal winners, Wilson said, as the guys who finished third and fourth — such as Triston Barnett (122), Courtney Shavers (135) and Donovan Whitehead (heavyweight) — who did the trick.

"They really helped, came through with some big wins and pushed us over the edge, came out of nowhere and made points for us," Wilson said. "It was exciting, a real experience-builder for the kids."

Kinnick won despite having no wrestlers in three weight classes, something that may hurt the Red Devils in the Far East dual-meet tournament. "But they'll be a good (individual freestyle) tournament team," Yokota coach Brian Kitts said.

Two defending Far East tournament champions, Michael Spencer of Zama American and Devin Day of Yokota, suffered upset losses. Gamble scored a second-period pin over Day, who placed third, while Edgren's Cheston



GARY CASHMAN/Special to Stars and Stripes

**Daegu American's Noah Downey briefly gets the upper hand on Seoul American's Eric Bush during Saturday's 129-pound bout in the DODEA Korea season-opening wrestling meet at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea. Bush decisioned Downey 2-0 (9-0, 6-1) and the host Falcons won the dual meet 40-14.**

Nurial-Dacilio dispatched Spencer, who took second at 168.

Tim Pounds (141), James Bowman (122) and Keith Johnson (129) also earned golds for Edgren, as did Jacqueline Steele at 115 pounds. Other gold-medal winners were Yokota's Ben Panasiewicz at 101, John Iredale of Zama at 158 and E.J. King's Dar-

nell Vinson at 215.

The DODEA Korea season also opened Saturday, with Seoul American throttling Daegu American 40-14 at Yongsan Garrison. The young Falcons, under first-year coach Chris Dickinson, got pins from Erik Kingsley (158), Kortney Martin (108) and Mike Thompkins (168).

"We have a lot of work to do," Daegu coach Bill Riggs said. "We have a lot of new kids who haven't wrestled. They don't have that fire in them yet. Hopefully they'll get that fire" when Daegu hosts a quad meet with Seoul, Osan American and E.J. King on Saturday, Riggs said.

## High school scoreboard

### Japan

#### Wrestling

##### Saturday's results

##### 2009 Robert D. Edgren High School Tournament

##### At Eagles Nest, Robert D. Edgren High School, Misawa Air Base

##### Team scores

1, Nile C. Kinnick; 2, Robert D. Edgren; 3, Yokota; 65; 4, Zama American; 53; 5, E.J. King, 16.

##### Individual results

101 pounds — Ben Paslawiecz, Yokota (unopposed).

108 — 1, Marcus Boehler, Kinnick; 2, Jaren Curz, Zama; 3, Johnny Cope, Yokota; 4, Janelle Patterson, Edgren.

115 — 1, Jacqueline Steele, Edgren; 2, Ed Peterson, Yokota; 3, Phil Robies, Yokota; 4, Melody Brown, Zama.

122 — 1, James Bowman, Edgren; 2, Trenton Taylor, Yokota; 3, Triston Barnett, Kinnick; 4, Michael Craig, Edgren.

129 — 1, Keith Johnson, Edgren; 2, Marlowe Gonzales, Kinnick; 3, Wilfred Smith, Yokota; 4, Dustin Spurling, Zama.

135 — 1, Elijah Gamble, Kinnick; 2, Nick Jorgenson, Zama; 3, Devin Day, Yokota; 4, Courtney Shavers, Kinnick.

141 — 1, Tim Pounds, Edgren; 2, Michael Watt, Kinnick; 3, Aaron Beramundi, Zama; 4, Quentin King-Sheppard, Yokota.

148 — 1, Derek Youngblood, Kinnick; 2, Stanley Sneed, Yokota; 3, Rey Keiser, Edgren; 4, Mason Saccamondi, E.J. King.

158 — 1, John Iredale, Zama; 2, Darrell Roberson, Edgren; 3, Lee Spurling, Zama;

168 — 1, Cheston Nurial-Dacilio, Edgren; 2, Michael Spencer, Zama; 3, Nick Gibbons, Kinnick; 4, Tyler Crandall, Yokota.

180 — 1, Chris Santos, Kinnick; 2, Tyler Sharbut, Yokota; 3, Allen Russell, Edgren; 4, Denver Robb, E.J. King.

215 — 1, Darnel Vinson, E.J. King; 2, Andrew Cavalier, Zama; 3, Jake Johnson, Yokota; 4, Matt Bernal, Edgren.

**Heavyweight** — 1, David de los Santos, Kinnick; 2, Alex Gonzalez, Zama; 3, Donovan Whitehead, Kinnick; 4, Jesse Hogan, Yokota.

### Boys basketball

#### Saturday's summaries

##### Zama American 56, E.J. King 50

##### At Sasebo Naval Base

Zama 14 13 13 16-56

E.J. King 20 10 13 7-50

**Scoring** — Zama, Mike Jorgenson 12,

Ryan Blackstock 11, Tevin Johnson 11,

Jonathan Neyland 11; E.J. King, Christian

Jarrard 18, Ryan Malpaya 12. **Steals** — E.J.

King, Christian Jarrard 8.

**E.J. King 49, Zama American 36**

At Sasebo Naval Base

Zama 9 7 7 13-36

E.J. King 14 18 4 13-49

**Scoring** — E.J. King, Ryan Wagner 15,

Ryan Malpaya 10; Zama, Mike Jorgenson

14. **Steals** — E.J. King, Ryan Wagner 9.

**Yokota 54, Robert D. Edgren 46**

At Yokota Air Base

Edgren 10 18 6 12-46

Yokota 18 12 16 8-54

**Scoring** — Yokota, Antony Phillips 18,

Warren Manegan 13, DeEric Harvin 12;

Edgren, Jocquey Butler 16.

**Nile C. Kinnick 57, Matthew C. Perry 33**

At Yokosuka Naval Base

Perry 9 11 7 6-33

Kinnick 6 13 17 21-57

**Scoring** — Kinnick, Devin Lewis 12,

David Deadmon 11, Josh Adair 10, Kenneth

Haynes 10; Perry, Chase Dariso 15, John

Ayers 10.

### Girls basketball

#### Saturday's summaries

##### Zama American 35, E.J. King 19

##### At Sasebo Naval Base

Zama 15 8 10 2-35

E.J. King 4 6 5 4-19

**Scoring** — Zama, Daniels 12; E.J. King,

Tara Long 11.

**Zama American 42, E.J. King 28**

At Sasebo Naval Base

Zama 14 9 9 10-42

E.J. King 3 7 10 8-28

**Scoring** — Zama, Powell 12, Valentine

11; E.J. King, Tara Long 15.

### Robert D. Edgren 62, Yokota 32

#### At Yokota Air Base

Edgren 24 13 14 11-62

Yokota 12 6 7 7-32

**Scoring** — Edgren, Ashley Hawkins 27;

Yokota, Erika Etli 19.

**Nile C. Kinnick 57, Matthew C. Perry 30**

At Yokosuka Naval Base

Perry 5 4 12 9-30

Kinnick 10 10 15 22-57

**Scoring** — Kinnick, Shannon Jackson

26.

### Okinawa

#### Boys basketball

##### Saturday's summary

##### Kadena 96, Chatan 73

##### At Chatan

Kadena 23 18 32 23-96

Chatan 12 21 21 19-73

**Scoring** — Kadena, Jason Sumpter 21,

Kevin Paranal 19, Taiyo Robertson 18,

Skyler Warren 10. **Rebounding** — Kadena,

Jason Sumpter 15, Kevin Paranal 11, Sky-

ler Warren 10. **Assists** — Kadena, Taiyo

Robertson 13.

**Girls basketball**

#### Saturday's summaries

##### Naha 75, Kadena 31

##### At Kadena Air Base

Naha 17 25 20 13-75

Kadena 7 2 13 9-31

**Scoring** — Kadena, Maria Vaughn 9,

Shari Moss 8.

**Itoman 68, Kubasaki 48**

At Camp Foster

Kubasaki 12 17 10 9-48

Itoman 16 19 23 10-68

**Scoring** — Kubasaki, Gabby Falco 21,

Athena Wilson 16.

**Girls basketball**

#### Saturday's summaries

##### Seoul American 69, Daegu American 65

##### At Camp George

SAHS 21 18 14 16-69

Daegu 15 19 11 20-65

**Scoring** — SAHS, Deion Craig 25, Eric

Williams 16, Adrian Thomas 10; Daegu,

Antoine Feagin 33, David Martinez 11.

**Rebounding** — SAHS, Deion Craig 10, Eric

Williams 8; Daegu, Josh Gosserand 13,

Chris Swain 12, Antoine Feagin 8.

**Assists** — Daegu, Khiry Loyd 7. **Blocked**

shots — Daegu, Khiry Loyd 4.

**Girls basketball**

#### Saturday's summaries

##### Seoul American 56, Daegu American 25

##### At Camp George

SAHS 18 16 10 12-56

Daegu 8 8 6 3-25

**Scoring** — SAHS, Liz Gleaves 18, Destinee Harrison 13, Diamond Person 12.

**Rebounding** — SAHS, Destinee Harrison 9, Diamond Person 8. **Assists** — SAHS, Liz Gleaves 8. **Steals** — SAHS, Liz Gleaves 8.

## Jackson's late shooting fuels Kinnick girls' sweep

Volleyball players, especially hard hitters like Kinnick's All-Fair East junior Shannon Jackson, sometimes have to unlearn the things they did in volleyball while transitioning to basketball.

In Jackson's case, it was learning to use a soft touch when shooting, coach Charles Boyer said. After rough starts in Friday's and Saturday's DODEA Japan home victories over Robert D. Edgren and Matthew C. Perry, Jackson netted a combined 40 second-half points in the games.

"She finally got the softness back," Boyer said. "It's a matter of getting volleyball out of the muscles."

## Seoul American boys escape Daegu with four-point victory

Playing games at tiny, tinny Warriors Gym at Daegu American School is "always tough" for Seoul American, Falcons coach Steve Boyd said. A 25-point, 10-rebound performance by Deion Craig proved crucial to Seoul's 69-65 triumph Saturday that improved the Falcons' record to 3-1 this season.

"They always seem to play well" at home, Boyd said of the Warriors giving his young team fits. "We have a big learning curve. We're getting better. We're where I thought we would be at this point. We have a long way to go, but we're progressing."

The Falcons survived a 33-point, eight-rebound performance by Antoine Feagin, and Boyd says the Warriors should do well in the Class A Tournament. "They get production from a good number of players. Feagin is a great athlete. He's hard to stop without fouling him."

## Osan American 45, Korea International 26 At Pangyo

**Halftime** — KIS 18, Osan 14; quarter splits not available. **Scoring** — Osan, Arielle Andrews 18. **Rebounding** — Osan, Charnell McQueen 7, Ebony Tolbert 6.

**Steals** — Osan, Courtney Van Deventer 8, Ashley LaFortune 6, Charnell McQueen 5.

## Yongsan International-Seoul 29, Centennial Christian 11 At Seoul

**CSC** 2 0 0 9-11  
YIS-S 4 14 5 6-29

**Scoring** — YIS-S, Joelle Kim 8, Vanette Sechage 8. **Rebounding** — YIS-S, Joelle Kim 8.

## Friday's summary

## Yongsan International-Seoul 61, Korea International 13 At Pangyo

**YIS-S** 17 17 18 9-61  
**KIS** 0 6 5 2-13

**Scoring** — YIS-S, Jessi Son 11, Joelle Kim 10.

## Friday's summary

## Yongsan International-Seoul 61, Korea International 13 At Pangyo

**YIS-S** 17 17 18 9-61  
**KIS** 0 6 5 2-13

**Scoring** — YIS-S, Jessi Son 11, Joelle Kim 10.

## Guam

### Guam girls basketball

#### Friday's summary

##### Okinoko 54, Guam High 50 At Barrigada

**Guam High** 17 8 11 14-50  
**Okkodo** 10 9 18 17-54

**Scoring** — Okkodo, Chantel Torres 34; Guam, Janessa Blas 22. **Noteworthy** — Panthers eliminated in first round of Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam playoffs.

## Boys soccer

#### Saturday's summary

##### Guam High 1, George Washington 1 At Agana Heights

**GW** 0 1-1  
**GH** 1 0-1

**Scoring** — Guam, Sean Marquez 1; GW, Shawn Spindel 1 (penalty kick).

## NFL: PLAYER OF THE WEEK

# Complete: Manning has noticed Young's turnaround



WADE PAYNE/AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young is not among the AFC passing leaders because he hasn't thrown enough times. But he has a passer rating of 96.9 over the past five weeks.

**COMPLETE, FROM BACK PAGE**

Up next is a showdown Sunday with the Indianapolis Colts and three-time MVP Peyton Manning, the gold standard for quarterbacks in the NFL. Manning has noticed what Young's done with his second chance.

"Obviously, he had to sit and sit and then to come back in and play the way he's done, it's been very impressive. Our defense knows all the difficult challenges he provides with his legs as well as his arm. It's almost like a different offense for our defense," Manning said.

Young will be going for a 10th straight victory as a starter, and he already is 23-11 as a starter for a 67.6 winning percentage. That ranks him fourth behind Tom Brady (77.7 percent), Ben Roethlisberger (70.4 percent) and Philip Rivers (69.5 percent) for best winning percentage among quarterbacks drafted since 2000.

For the season, Young doesn't appear among the AFC's passing leaders because he hasn't thrown enough times. Over the past five weeks, he ranks sixth with a passer rating of 96.9. That also puts him ahead of Manning.

In this stretch, Young is 83-for-127 for 1,010 yards, and he has been putting balls squarely into his receivers' hands. He's completing 62.9 percent and his over-

all passer rating of 90.2 would be the highest yet for his career.

His teammates say Young is much more poised and comfortable in the huddle, never more so than during that decisive drive when he completed passes to five receivers.

Nate Washington won a Super Bowl with Roethlisberger in Pittsburgh and said he knew Roethlisberger would make a key play. He called Young different.

"Whatever he does is major. It's on a major level. It's on a whole different stage. It's like, I don't know, it's unexplainable. It just feels good to be with a guy who knows we have to win games, and he's going to do whatever he has to do to win games," Washington said.

Young explains his success by saying he learned patience sitting on the bench. He studied how Kerry Collins refused to risk a mistake by forcing a throw, and he worked hard with quarterbacks coach Craig Johnson.

Heimerdinger wants to watch Young the rest of this season before assessing him as a pocket passer. But the coordinator who only worked with him through three quarters of the 2008 season opener before Young was injured has been learning what plays Young likes and fit his quarterback.

Heimerdinger helped Young's

mentor, the late Steve McNair, become co-MVP with Manning in 2003. To him, the biggest difference is how hard Young is working off the field.

"There's times on Wednesday I put in ideas or new schemes, and they get wordy and even I have trouble calling them off the sheet of paper. Then he comes back on Thursday, and he has practiced saying it. He's got it down cold. He calls it right, so I know he's going home at night and doing something," Heimerdinger said.

Young remains the NFL quarterback who has rushed for the most yards since 2006. He ran for a season-high 73 yards to beat the Houston Texans 20-17 on Nov. 23.

Colts defensive lineman Rahiem Brock notes Young is playing pretty well.

"And we know we have to get after him up front. He makes plays with his arm and his legs, so we're going to have to chase him," Brock said.

Titans coach Jeff Fisher said Young keeps doing something unique each week. The man who said Oct. 29 he would've stuck with Collins as the starter if Tennessee had at least a couple of victories insists he isn't surprised by Young's play.

"I'm proud of the production, and the results," Fisher said.

It's tough not to be at this point.

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**NBA roundup**

# Kobe's three at buzzer lifts Lakers over Heat

*The Associated Press*

**LOS ANGELES** — With the Los Angeles Lakers down by two and 3.2 seconds left, Kobe Bryant merely wanted to drive for a tying basket.

His foot slipped when he got the ball, and Miami's defense forced Bryant to throw up an off-balance, three-point shot that was well off target and far too long.

Bryant somehow made it work out.

He banked in his final shot over Dwyane Wade's outstretched arm at the buzzer, ending the superstars' sensational duel and sending the Lakers to their eighth straight victory, 108-107 over the Heat on Friday night.

Bryant scored 33 points, but his falling bank shot from straightaway likely will rank among the most incredible highlights

of his career. With three-pointers by Bryant and Derek Fisher in the final 4.3 seconds, Los Angeles swiped an outstanding regular-season game away from the Heat and Wade, who scored nine of his 26 points in the final 2 minutes.

"If you told me before the game that it would be decided by Kobe shooting a one-legged backboard three, I'd have taken that," Wade said.

**Celtics 105, Thunder 87:** At Oklahoma City, Kevin Garnett scored 23 points, Paul Pierce added 21 in the first half and Boston completed a perfect four-game trip.

Kevin Durant scored 36 points for Oklahoma City.

**Raptors 109, Wizards 107 (OT):** At Washington, Hedo Turkoglu hit a jumper with 8.1 seconds left in overtime to end Toronto's losing streak at five games.

Chris Bosh led the Raptors with 31 points and 16 rebounds.

Gilbert Arenas finished with a season-high 34 points for Washington.

**Cavaliers 101, Bulls 87:** At Cleveland, LeBron James had 33 points and 11 assists and busted out every one of his dance moves as Cleveland won for the 11th time in 13 games.

Rookie Taj Gibson had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Chicago.

**Knicks 114, Hawks 107:** At Atlanta, Al Harrington scored 27 points, Chris Duhon had 25 points and 10 assists and New York used an effective combination of three-pointers and drives.

Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 29 points.

**Grizzlies 98, Mavericks 82:** At Memphis, Tenn., Zach Randolph had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and O.J. Mayo added 25

points for Memphis. Jason Terry led Dallas with 18 points.

**Hornets 98, Timberwolves 8:** At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 16 points, 15 assists and a season-best eight steals for New Orleans after missing eight games because of a sprained ankle. Devin Brown led the Hornets with 19 points. Al Jefferson had 20 points and 14 rebounds for Minnesota.

**Jazz 96, Pacers 87:** At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer scored a season-high 35 points and had 13 rebounds to lead Utah to its fourth straight victory. Danny Granger led Indiana with 26 points.

**Pistons 105, Bucks 96:** At Auburn Hills, Mich., Rodney Stuckey scored 19 points and rookie Jonas Jerebko added 16 to help Detroit win.

Luke Ridnour led Milwaukee with 21 points.

**NHL roundup**

# Cole's hat trick helps Carolina break five-game losing streak

*The Associated Press*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — Erik Cole scored three goals as the Carolina Hurricanes held off the Vancouver Canucks for a 5-3 victory Saturday, ending their five-game skid.

Cole's sixth career hat trick was his first multigoal game for Carolina since he was reacquired from Edmonton on March 4.

Ray Whitney had a goal and two assists for Carolina, which ended Vancouver's three-game road winning streak. The loss was the Canucks' first in six games against Eastern Conference opposition this season.

Jannik Hansen put the Canucks ahead at 12:02 of the first, beating goalie Manny Legace on a soft shot over his glove-side shoulder from the right circle. Henrik Sedin set up the goal.

Whitney evened the score for Carolina just 20 seconds later, taking a pass from Eric Staal in the left circle and flipping a backhanded shot over Raycroft's left shoulder.

Cole put Carolina ahead 2-1 at 3:55 of the second, taking a wrist shot from the slot off a pass from Whitney.

Carolina made it 4-1 on a power play at 18:59 of the second, when Raycroft appeared to simply lose the puck out of his glove before it slid across the line. Cole, the last Hurricane to touch it, was credited with his second goal.

Cole scored his third goal into an empty net at 19:46.

**Oilers 3, Stars 2 (SO):** At Dallas, Shawn Horcoff scored in the fifth round of the shootout to help give Edmonton a rare road victory over Dallas.

Jeff Deslauriers stopped four of five Dallas shooters, and the Oilers came away with a victory for only the fourth time in the past 26 road games against the Stars.

The Oilers rallied from a two-goal deficit in the first period to



KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

**Carolina's Erik Cole (26) celebrates his goal with teammate Ray Whitney during the second period of Saturday's game against Vancouver. Cole scored a hat trick in the Hurricanes' 5-3 victory.**

send the game to overtime. Patrick O'Sullivan gave them the early edge by converting in the first round of the shootout.

Loui Eriksson evened the shootout for Dallas in the third round, but Dallas' Brenden Morrow hit the goal post with a shot in the fifth round to set the stage for Horcoff's winner that went in off the stick of Stars goaltender Marty Turco.

In Friday's games:

**Wild 5, Ducks 4 (SO):** At St. Paul, Minn., Guillaume Latendresse scored the winning goal in the shootout for Minnesota.

Mikko Koivu and Antti Miettinen scored two goals apiece in regulation for Minnesota, and Miettinen also scored in the shootout.

Joffrey Lupul had two goals in his return to the lineup for the Ducks and then scored in the third round of the shootout. Bobby Ryan also scored twice for Anaheim.

**Devils 3, Lightning 2:** At Newark, N.J., Jamie Langenbrunner scored with 38.1 seconds left in regulation to lift New Jersey over Tampa Bay.

Brian Rolston and Niclas Bergfors had power-play goals for New Jersey.

Vincent Lecavalier and Steve Downie scored for Tampa Bay.

**Canadiens 5, Bruins 1:** At Montreal, Mike Cammalleri scored three times in the second period as Montreal celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Jaroslav Spacek and Glen Metropolit also scored for Montreal.

**Predators 4, Blackhawks 1:** Dan Ellis stopped 34 shots, and Dan Hamhuis, Martin Erat and Jordin Tootoo each had a goal and an assist to help Nashville snap Chicago's eight-game home winning streak.

Joel Ward also scored for the Predators.

Cristobal Huet made 19 saves for the Blackhawks.

**NHL scoreboard****Eastern Conference**

Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	29	20	9	0	40	96 78
New Jersey	26	18	7	1	37	74 58
N.Y. Islanders	28	11	10	7	29	76 85
Philadelphia	25	13	11	1	27	77 68
N.Y. Rangers	27	13	11	1	27	80 84
Northeast Division						
Buffalo	25	16	9	2	34	72 57
Boston	28	14	9	5	33	69 70
Ottawa	26	13	9	4	30	77 81
Montreal	29	13	14	2	28	73 86
Toronto	27	8	12	2	23	76 95
Southwest Division						
Washington	28	17	7	6	40	100 80
Atlanta	25	14	8	3	31	85 72
Tampa Bay	27	10	9	8	28	70 82
Florida	28	11	13	4	26	79 98
Carolina	28	6	17	5	17	67 103

**Western Conference**

Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	27	17	7	3	37	83 63
Nashville	26	16	10	2	34	70 75
Columbus	28	13	10	5	31	87 102
Detroit	27	13	10	4	30	77 77
St. Louis	26	11	10	5	27	65 69
Northwest Division						
Calgary	27	17	7	3	37	84 68
Colorado	30	15	9	6	36	91 93
Vancouver	29	16	13	0	32	91 75
Edmonton	29	12	13	4	28	87 93
Minnesota	27	12	12	3	27	73 83
Pacific Division						
San Jose	30	19	6	5	43	103 80
Los Angeles	29	17	10	2	36	89 87
Dallas	29	13	8	4	34	85 85
Phoenix	28	16	11	1	33	70 66
Anaheim	28	10	13	5	25	79 92

**NOTE:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

**Friday's games**

New Jersey 3, Tampa Bay 2

Minnesota 5, Boston 1

Nashville 4, Chicago 1

**Saturday's games**

Carolina 5, Vancouver 3

Edmonton 3, Dallas 2

Seattle 4, Los Angeles

N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo

Detroit at New Jersey

Colorado at Columbus

Atlanta at Florida

Washington at Philadelphia

Toronto at Boston

N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay

Chicago at Pittsburgh

Minnesota at Nashville

Calgary at San Jose

Ottawa at Phoenix

**Sunday's games**

Detroit at N.Y. Rangers

Ottawa at Anaheim

**Mondays' games**

New Jersey at Buffalo

Atlanta at Toronto

Carolina at Pittsburgh

Washington at Tampa Bay

Philadelphia at Montreal

Edmonton at Florida

Colorado at St. Louis

Minnesota at Phoenix

Calgary at Los Angeles

**Saturday's games**

Detroit at N.Y. Rangers

Ottawa at Anaheim

**Sunday's games**

New Jersey at Buffalo

Atlanta at Toronto

Carolina at Pittsburgh

Washington at Tampa Bay

Philadelphia at Montreal

Edmonton at Florida

Colorado at St. Louis

Minnesota at Phoenix

Calgary at Los Angeles

**Scoring leaders**

Through Dec. 4

GP G A PTS

Joe Thornton, SJ 30 7 33 40

Mariya Gaborik, NYR 25 21 35 37

Sidney Crosby, Pit 29 19 35 36

Corey Perry, Anh 28 14 20 34

Anze Kopitar, LA 29 14 20 34

Dany Heatley, SJ 30 19 14 33

Patrick Marleau, SJ 30 19 14 33

Ryan Getzlaf, Anh 28 5 28 33

Henrik Sedin, Van 28 14 18 32

Brad Richards, Dal 26 7 25 32

Alex Ovechkin, Was 21 18 12 30

Steve Stamkos, TB 27 17 13 30

Zach Parise, NJ 26 15 15 30

Rick Nash, Cls 28 15 15 30

Dustin Penner, Edm 28 15 15 30

**Calender**

Jan. 1 — Winter Classic: Philadelphia

Flyers vs. Boston Bruins at Fenway Park.

Feb. 15-Feb. 28 — Olympic break.

April 11 — Regular season ends.

# SPORTS

**REBUILDING RAPIDLY**  
 Kentucky ends losing streak  
 against North Carolina  
 Page 25



NFL: PLAYER OF THE WEEK

# Complete package

Vince Young, who has revived his career in the past five weeks, is showing more patience in the pocket. Last week, Young led the Titans on a 99-yard drive to beat the Arizona Cardinals.

MARK HUMPHREY/AP



Long feared for his running, Titans QB Young can win games with his arm, too

BY TERESA M. WALKER  
*The Associated Press*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

**T**he maturity of Vince Young as a quarterback was never clearer than last Sunday. Young stood behind his offensive line, flicking passes to receivers while driving the Titans 99 yards in the final 2 minutes, 37 seconds. He tossed one ball out of the end zone to avoid a mistake, then had to explain to his teammates a play not run by the Titans since his rookie season. That play resulted in the winning touchdown.

Everyone knew Young could run, throw and win.

Now the Tennessee quarterback, who has revived his career with the team that drafted him No. 3 overall in 2006, is showing he's also learned how to be more potent as a pocket passer. He is coming off his best passing game as a professional, and his 387 yards are the most for the franchise in five years.

Young is paying attention. And not paying attention: One of the many lessons he's learned during his 14 months on the bench is to tune out the TV and radio commentators and newspaper columnists.

"I just try to stay focused and continue to come to work every day and continue to get better and better," Young said.

How much better can Young be?

"I'm still working, still working, still working," he said. "This is my fourth year. I got a long way to go."

Young's development comes just in time. His \$14.25 million salary-cap number for 2010 is the reason team owner Bud Adams wanted him starting after the Titans lost their first six games this season. Is the quarterback worth keeping after this season, Adams wanted to know? Indeed, being released and joining busts such as Ryan Leaf and Akili Smith seemed his fate only two months ago.

Now, Young has led the team to five straight victories, making the Titans the only team in NFL history to go from 0-6 to 5-6.

The 2006 offensive rookie of the year always called his legs his best weapon, even though he can toss balls 60 yards downfield with a flick of his wrist.

He hadn't won a game with his arm in this turnaround until last week's 20-17 victory over the Arizona Cardinals, and what a day he had. Young threw 43 passes and completed 27 — both career highs — and was 9-for-16 for 94 yards on that final drive.

SEE COMPLETE ON PAGE 27



No. 5 Cincinnati rallies, secures BCS bowl Page 29

